SPORTS / A23
ENTERTAINMENT / D1
METRO / A20

RP to buy 600,000 tons of Vietnam rice

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AGREED on Tuesday to buy 600,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam through a government-to-government deal, bringing to 2.3 million metric tons its total rice imports for 2008.

The Philippines, the world's biggest rice importer, paid an average of $940 a ton, including freight, for the latest purchase. The rice is expected to be delivered in July, August and September.

"This is sufficient for the 2008 requirement," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap

BP TO BUY /A4

Boston relives Celtic pride, rips Lakers for 17th NBA title

- **Rumors of Juday,** Ryan split-up debunked
- **Reality TV** shows get weirder

Newborn baby girl thrown out of taxi seriously injured

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, June 19, 2008 ★ Vol. 22 / No. 193 website: www.inquirer.net

Ces case a cautionary tale for media, says gov't

By Leila B. Salaverria and Michael Lim Ubac

WHILE SIGNS OF RELIEF greeted the release of kidnapped ABS-CBN journalist Ces Drilon and her two companions in Sulu yesterday,

CES CASE/ A4

All-out offensive launched

CES DRILON UNEDITED Though exhausted and pockmarked with wounds of mosquito bites on her face and arms, ABS-CBN news anchor Ces Drilon can't help smiling when she arrives at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Sulu together with her team, Jimmy Encarnacion and guide, Prof. Octavio Dinampo.

'No letup until we crush them'

By Alcuin Papa, in Manila
Christine O. Avendaño in Davao City
and Julie S. Alipala in Zamboanga City

WITH THE RELEASE FROM captivity of an ABS-CBN news team and a peace advocate, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the military and police to launch an all-out offensive to pursue and neutralize their kidnappers in the jungles of Sulu.

Meeting separately with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano and military commanders in Mindanao, the President ordered them to launch "intensive punitive actions" against the kidnappers of ABS-CBN senior reporter Ces Drilon, her cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and Angelo Valderama, and Mindanao State University Prof. Octavio Dinampo, according to Press Secretary Jesus Dureza.

"We will be using the full might of the government forces in that area to go after them, of course without unduly compromising the safety of the civilian communities," Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, the Armed Forces spokesperson, told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said his men were now on "operation mode" against the kidnappers believed to be Abu Sayyaf bandits responsible for a series of kidnappings, beheadings and bombings in Mindanao.

"We are on an all-out offensive against these kidnappers and the perpetrators of the crime," Goltiao said.

Goltiao said some of the kidnappers had been identified through pictures and aliases. He said Drilon had picked out some of

ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE/ A4

WELCOME HOME The nation heaves a collective sigh of relief when ABS-CBN news anchor Ces Drilon and cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and Angelo Valderama (top) accompanied by negotiator Sen. Loren Legarda (bottom) disembark from a private jet at the Absolut hangar of the Manila Domestic Airport on Wednesday. They're finally home after nine days in captivity in what is believed to be a remote Abu Sayyaf lair in Jolo. TV crew's guide, Mindanao State University Prof. Octavio Dinampo, was also released with them on Tuesday night. Valderama was released last week. (More photos on Pages A8, A9, A17.)

Betrayal led to kidnapping, says Ces

By Julie S. Alipala in Zamboanga City
and Tarra Quismundo in Manila

IT ALL STARTED WITH BETRAYAL, according to freed broadcast journalist Ces Drilon of ABS-CBN.

"I've been in and out of Mindanao, and I want to understand the situation here. Is Annewsong pulsol (Unfortunately), there was some betrayal involved, and we were kidnapped," she told reporters early yesterday in Zamboanga City.

But Drilon refused to elaborate on how she, her cameraman Angelo Valderama and Jimmy Encarnacion, and peace advocate Octavio Dinampo were betrayed.

"We'll get there. We are cooperating with the investigation and we condemn [the kidnappers] for what they did," said the 46-year-old mother of four.

Drilon and her crew were in Sulu purportedly to interview a leading member of the Abu Sayyaf when they were kidnapped

BETRAYAL/ A4

THE LONG NIGHT Not yet quite over for the freed hostages who board a Huey chopper at Camp Teodulfo Bautista for Zamboanga City to rest briefly before proceeding to Manila.

Right connection, firm hand in nego did it, says Loren

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOR SEN. LOREN LEGARDA, finding the right connection to the kidnappers and being firm with them was the key to her eighth successful negotiation.

She said Mayor Aburaz Ibrajl of Indanan, Sulu, was the "key" to the negotiation because he was acceptable to the kidnappers. But she had to "manage" him to say the right, firm things to secure the unconditional release of Ces Drilon and the other captives.

Legarda said she herself had spoken with the kidnappers about five times on Drilon's phone.

The senator talked with the hostages late yesterday. This was how she recounted the turn of events:

June 9, Monday: Journalist Arlyn dela Cruz phoned Legarda to relay the request of ABS-CBN's Charie Villa to help secure the release of Drilon and her team.

RIGHT/ A17

147th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Rizaliana collection is book printer's prized treasure

By Norman Bordadora

GASPAR VIRAS FACE LIT UP when he showed a five-inch thick compilation of articles written by, for, or about Dr. Jose Rizal.

The Rizaliana—made thicker by dried up stamens, classi-

RIZALIANA/ A6

Czech envoy writes book on RP, Rizal

By Alce Y. Vergara
Lifestyle

THIS FOREIGNER'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH the Philippines and its people continues with the recent launching of his book, a slim volume of poems titled "Dear Poemas de los Islas Filipinas (Twelve Poems on the Philippine Islands)."

Written in Spanish by the Czech Republic's Ambassador to the Philippines Jaroslav Ludva, the book pays tribute not only to the country's history, its Spanish colonial architecture and its people, but also touches inevitably on certain episodes in the life of national hero Jose Rizal and his friendship with Ferdinand Blumentritt.

The Spanish-speaking Blumentritt, whom Rizal considered a foremost Euro-

CZECH/ A6

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Subsidies spur economy – Salceda

'Anything for the poor is correct policy'

By Beverly T. Mantalaba

MORE "CASH TRANSfers" to poor Filipinos are needed to spur the economy at a time when soaring prices of fuel, electricity and food are hurting them, Albay Gov. Joey S. Salceda said yesterday.

Salceda, a former presidential chief of staff, proposed that the government give P36.1 billion to "conditional cash transfers" a year for three years or about P600 per month for three months to each of the 4.7 million poorest Filipinos.

He called the subsidies conditional cash transfers or "direct cash income transfers" to correct the notion that these were doles.

Makes sense

"This money would be made more productive if they are given to the poor. Investments for the poor make more. Anything that goes to the poor is a correct policy," he said at a forum at the Holiday Inn Galleria in Mandaluyong.

Among the subsidies the Arroyo administration is now considering are the P500 a month (plus P300 for every child over two) subsidy to 300,000 families in the 20 poorest provinces; P500 to one-time allowance to each household using less than 100 kilowatt hours a month and rice sold at P18.25 a kilo.

The administration said it would also offer fertilizer subsidy to farmers and takeover bus lease to help owners of public utility vehicles convert their engines into ones that use liquefied petroleum gas or compressed natural gas.

Funds for these subsidies will main. It came from the windfall revenues the government is collecting from the 12 percent value-added tax on petroleum product whose prices have soared.

Salceda said the government was on the right track in easing the poor's plight. "But I have a problem with the scale, scope and speed," he said.

Expanding subsidies can serve as an economic stimulus and give back to the poor the purchasing power they lost due to sweltering prices of basic necessities, the governor said.

Salceda, a former investment banker, **said the government may borrow** the proposed outlays proposed by allocating 1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) to subsidize the poor.

He said the government should not shy away from borrowing money to finance a welfare scheme. "It's not bad to borrow to help the poor. We can source the funds through deficit spending," he said.

Imminent social calamity

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo is amenable to the suggestion, the country's economic managers are reluctant to borrow money for this purpose, wary of possible credit rating downgrades and swelling debt-to-GDP ratio.

"The credit rating agencies will tolerate it if we use 1 percent of the GDP for the poor," he said.

The economic managers, according to him, are looking at cash transfers equivalent to 0.5 percent of GDP.

He noted that a welfare scheme to counter soaring basic commodities has long been a practice in developed countries like the United States as a fiscal stimulus.

Although the Philippine brand economy has enough kitchen to weather the crisis for now, the poorest segment of the economy is in deep trouble, he said.

The GDP only describes the economic status of the richest 13 percent of the population. The remaining 87 percent of Filipinos, or the poor to core, badly need state intervention, according to Salceda.

"The economy of the 87 percent looks dark. ... There is an imminent social calamity. We can't rely on the markets to take care of the poor. They need state intervention," he said.

Covered by budget

In the House of Representatives, the chairman of the appropriations committee **dismissed talk that the subsidies were** not covered by the 2008 national budget and sought to counter-attack.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the House budget panel, said the subsidies for lifeline users of electricity, kerosene discounts for farmers and those for LPG-engine conversion for public utility vehicles were covered by the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

He said the subsidies for the poor were funded from the appropriations/ appropriations like, among others, "Support to Infrastructure and Social Programs" provided for under Article Five (Public Works) Item 107 of the GAA on "Unprogrammed Fund."

He said the unutilized VAT collections as a result of the increase in the price of oil justified the release of funds under the unprogrammed fund.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and former national treasurer Leonor Briones have questioned the release of the subsidies, stating it was not provided for under the 2008 budget. With reports from Norman Bordadora and Christine F. Figueroa

ZTE deal complainants no-show again at probe

By TJ Burgonio

THE COMPLAINANTS WHO FILED a string of criminal cases against President Macapagal-Arroyo and several others in connection with the scam-ridden, $329-million NBN-ZTE deal failed to show up yesterday at a hearing yesterday, prompting a lawyer to say that the case may be "losing steam."

Lawyer Rory Roque and defense Rep. Rico Henderson Barquial and witnesses Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, Rodolfo Lozada Jr. and Jun-Jun Bondoc did not appear at a preliminary hearing scheduled at the Office of the Ombudsman.

"They're still over-complete suspects. Roque is not here, Barquial is not here. They're losing steam," said Ray Fortaleza, a lawyer for the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, one of the respondents.

But another complainant, lawyer Ramon Francisco, said Bondoc's counter-move was "propaganda."

"The claim that the case is weakening or the complainants are no longer interested are mere propaganda," he said.

Losing interest

There are seven complaints pending with the Ombudsman involving several allegations that Arroyo and her husband allegedly meddled in the Chinese-based ZTE deal to build a national broadband network. The deal was eventually scrapped.

The respondents include the Commission on Information and Communications Technology Secretary Ronnie Puno.

The complainants include Roque, Barquial, Francisco, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., lawyers Oliver Lozano and Mahar Pulido, and Cibac party-list Rep. Emmanuel Joel Villanueva.

Gabriel Villareal, a lawyer for Abalos, said the complainants may be losing interest because of waning media coverage of the cases.

"My theory is that the case is losing its initial hotness. It has come to a point where we now have to deal with the nitty-gritty of the real case, and of course, it becomes controverting," he said.

Roque said that appearing before the Ombudsman would be useless if the anti-graft body refuses to summon the President.

"I have better things to do than go there to a sham proceeding," said Roque who has filed a petition with the Supreme Court questioning the Ombudsman's action.

Barquial expressed surprise that a hearing had been scheduled yesterday.

No notice

"We're not losing interest at all. But we didn't receive a notice of hearing. We will complain about that," he said.

De Venecia and Lozada were not informed of yesterday's hearing because of "miscommunication" among their lawyers, while Bondoc was in Turkey, according to Francisco.

Guingona, Lozano and Pulido skipped the hearing. Villareal was not in his chair when Mike Arroyo and others, which he described as "very strong."

He said the testimonies of De Venecia, Lozada and Bondoc, as well as of Diario Monitor Executive Rodolfo Noel, during the third were his main evidence.

Villareal said the respondents were not about to move for the dismissal of the complaints, which he said have "enough standing to stay as [complaints]."

Taking their own sweet time

During the four-hour preliminary investigation, Villareal complained that the respondents were taking their "own sweet time" in filing affidavits affirming their Senate testimonies and cited the respondents' right to a speedy trial.

Madrigal has already filed his affidavit. A lawyer for De Venecia said his client would file his affidavit on June 23. Francisco said Lozada and Bondoc were also to do the same affidavits.

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  12888 + 12888 + [country code] + [area code] + [phone number]
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Globe

Bill filed vs plastic bags

ABOUT TIME CONGRESS PASS a law imposing fines on the use of plastic bags in retail outlets, a green group said yesterday.

The EcoWaste Coalition has thrown its support behind House Bill No. 4134, filed by Ako Bay Rep. Al Francis Bichara, imposing a small fine on supermarkets, department stores, convenience stores, and other retailers, that issue plastic bags.

The bill proposes an "environmental levy" of P2.00 per plastic bag issued by the outlets, according to the group.

A 2006 survey showed that 76 percent of the garbage floating in Manila Bay were mostly synthetic plastic materials. [...]

DOJ defends consolidation of PIPC cases

By Leila B. Salaverria

GONZALEZ

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE yesterday clarified that its decision to consolidate the preliminary investigation of criminal cases against Presidential Investment Products Corp. was not intended to delay the resolution of the cases.

Senior State Prosecutor Philipp Kimpo, new chair of the DOJ investigating panel, said the preliminary investigations of syndicated cases filed by the National Bureau of Investigation against the PIPC officials, as well as the criminal suit filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, were completed and the cases were all largely resolved, give or take a few corrections.

Kimpo made the statement when sought for comment regarding the 160-page-and-four-annex resolution he signed yesterday sending the DOJ's consolidation of the preliminary investigations of cases filed against the PIPC officials.

"The [consolidation] is not intended to delay the resolution of the cases. In fact, we have already resolved them," he said.

Kimpo also explained that if the conclusions of the syndicated emails case against the PIPC officials would not be forthcoming, it would be because the complainants have not filed the required docket fees at the DOJ.

He said the panel under him only recently discovered that the complainants have not filed the docket fees and the DOJ would be redressing them of the need to pay the fees.

"Without that we would not be able to release the resolutions. In fact we should not even have acted on them in the first place," he said.

The consolidation is the resolution of the complaint filed by the NBI last about P75 million.

But the full-page ad in the newspapers claimed that investors lost about P6 billion in the alleged scam.

Combat child labor; keep kids in school

NOTING A SHARP DROP IN school enrollment, the International Labor Organization (ILO) has renewed its call to keep children in school and combat child labor.

The ILO said it was alarmed by the decline in the participation rate or net enrollment in schools from 86.77 per cent in 2000 to 2001 to 85.22 per cent in 2004 to 2005.

The rate is the lowest in seven years, the ILO noted. This could mean that almost a million children are being put to work.

"Parents living in poverty often mean choose whether to educate their children or send them to work to help support the family," Benito Ntimi, deputy director of the ILO Subregional Office based in Manila said in a briefing on marking World Day Against Child Labor on June 12.

Ntimi said that in some cases, children attending schools must walk long distances, face hostile situations, poor physical facilities or lack of study materials.

Sheryl Lee C. Ortiz

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 29, 2006
11th Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial

1st Reading: Sir 48:1-14
Gospel: Mt 6:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you pray, do not use a lot of words, as the pagans do. For they have faith that the more they say, the more chance they have of being heard. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need, even before you ask him.

"This, then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven,
holy be your name,
your kingdom come,
and your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today the kind of bread we need.
Forgive us our debts
just as we have forgiven those who owe us debts to us.
Do not bring us to the test
but deliver us from the evil one.

"If you forgive others their wrongs, your Father in heaven will also forgive yours. If you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your sins."

Commentary:

His single prayer sums up all of the prayers contained in the scriptures, and gives us a basis taught to the world of Jesus. The Lord desires us to refer to Him in a close relationship with His heavenly Father, and opens His arms to invite us to talk to Him. Teaching us to call God "Father" is Jesus' innovation. Never before would a human bring dare to approach God using that name, yet ever since Jesus taught us this simple prayer there we found we do notice to doing so.

Daily may we pray this prayer until we are united forever to the house of Our Father.

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PRESIDENT As says and her allies from Lakas and Kampi applaud as Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario of Davao del Norte and Gov. Corazon Malanyaon of Davao Oriental sign the agreement for the merger of the two parties.

GMA rallies allies behind her successor

By Christian O. Avendaño

DAVAO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday rallied her allies to ensure her successor in 2010 will come from the combined forces of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

The President spoke to her party mates in Lakas and Kampi during regional consultations held at the Apo View Hotel here, the second show of unity in as many days.

Presidential spokesperson and political adviser Ignacio Bunye said the merger would ensure the biggest political party in the country and would be in a "manageable" position to elect the next president of the country.

"I have no doubt that our candidates in the nonpartisan Congress of Muslim Mindanao (Cmm) will win the elections, and I have no doubt that our candidates in the national elections will also win," said President Arroyo, who also proclaimed Lakas candidates for the ARMM election in August led by veterinarian Ali-MBM (no Datu) Ampatuan.

Like-minded

In her speech, Ms Arroyo pushed the two parties to continue working to strengthen their forces, "to increase the count of like-minded individuals."

"We will continue to work hard to fulfill our Philippine Reform Agenda and the day I turn the national leadership over to my successor, who I'm sure will be whoever Lakas-Kampi will support, because we will work for victory to propagate our Reform Agenda," she said.

President Arroyo, who founded Kampi and is also Lakas chair, witnessed the signing of a declaration between Lakas and Kampi in Region 11.

In a talk with party mates, Speaker Prospero Nograles, who is also Lakas president, made it clear that the two parties would "respect and safeguard the equity of the incumbents."

Betting on one horse

"We will bet only on our horse. Ask us twice. We will not play around," Nograles said.

Bunye said the alignment of Lakas and Kampi was seen to "fix" their relationship and to avoid the same mistake in the 2007 senatorial elections where some of their national candidates lost because of squabbles among local officials of the two parties vying for the same posts.

"What's important is to get the hotheads out of the way," he said.

Now, he said the parties would have to stick to having issues resolved just one person.

"If this is successfully implemented (merger of Lakas and Kampi), this will make Lakas-Kampi the biggest administration party and put our party in a much better position to elect the next president, next vice president and majority of the other elective positions," Bunye told reporters.

Acknowledging that the goal was to consolidate their forces for the 2010 presidential polls, Bunye said the two parties would like to stay for continuity.

Seeds of victory

"When we say continuity, our meeting is Feliciano Palmos, who is founder of Lakas. During the time of FVR, we had a period of relative economic development interrupted by true democ ra and interrupted by the two years of Erap and when President Arroyo came we also had uninterrupted economic development and this we believe this is worth continuing, worth pursuing. So our battle cry is economic starting from FVR," he said.

In the House, 75 percent of lawmakers belong to Lakas and Kampi. The percentage is even higher when it comes to local government executives, according to Bunye.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who is Kampi chair, also rallied party mates to strengthen their partnership with Lakas.

"If we have been united, we plant the seeds of victory. If we have been divided we plant the seeds of meaningless and pointless defeat," Puno told at the consultation meeting.

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Czech envoy writes book on RP, Rizal

By Georgia Ki

post report on Philippine history, now from Arabic Greek capital of Prague and lived most of his life in the city of Litomerice, which is also now part of the Czech Republic.

Ladislav Rieti gained national prominence two years ago when he recorded his Czech translation of "My Ultimo Adios" (My Last Farewell), a standard poem written in Spanish by Rizal found before his execution in 1896, at Fort Santiago's Rizal Shrine in Intramuros. The Czech translation is set to a martial tune in the original.

His efforts to disseminate Rizal's work didn't go unnoticed, for he was soon offered by the Knights of Rizal to be its "first honorary member" in the Czech Republic, particularly in Litomerice. The chapter now boasts of 20 members.

Apart from his ambassadorial duties, Ladislav, who once described himself as a "shy poet," now regularly presents culmination of and historical exchanges between the sister cities of Litomerice and Columbia, Rizal's birthplace.

"Litomerice and Columbia signed a sister city agreement in 1974," he said. "Other than that, however, very little was done to promote any form of exchanges between the two cities."

At home in Litomerice

His appointment led him to organize a moving exposition featuring the works, photos and letters of Rizal and Blumentritt. The exposition, which was accompanied by seminars in the cities of Bagulo and Cagayan in 2000, also touched on the two men's friendship and Rizal's stay in Litomerice.

Rizal traveled for quite a number of years in Europe, but it was only in Litomerice, in the Blumentritt family's house, where he felt completely at home," Ladislav said.

While it took Ladislav, who mastered Spanish while taking up economics at the Universidad de Complutense in Madrid, two days to translate Rizal's masterpieces, it took him two years and countless trips to the Philippine consulate to write the book.

Apart from visiting the usual repositories of the country's Spanish colonial past such as libraries and the San Agustin Church, Ladislav, a devout Catholic, traveled to such places as Calamba, Vigan, Dapitan, the Cordilleras and even remote Banaues to gain much-needed inspiration and insight.

Context and meaning

"I've already been to some of these places like Dapitan and the Cordilleras several times," he said. "I never grow tired of visiting these places, especially the old churches."

Admittedly, Ladislav's book is also a testament to his love for the Spanish language. The work has thus found a niche among Spanish-speaking Filipinos, particularly academics and old families who trace their roots in Spain.

"It isn't simply a matter of being able to understand Spanish," he said. "You have to be a Filipino who knows the Philippines and its history to fully appreciate the context and meaning of each poem."

Also, Filipinos who don't understand Spanish will have to wait for the book's Filipino translations. The author plans to collaborate later this year with certain Filipino friends in the academe to do the job.

"I've resigned myself to the fact that certain nuances may be lost to get lost during translation. That's why I often need to collaborate with a good poet. It was the same thing when I worked on Rizal's 'Mi Ultimo Adios.' Since his Spanish was very rich, nothing can quite compare to the original. After all, Rizal's only one Rizal," he said.

Ladislav has no plans of having the poems translated to English.

"There are only two ways to present the Philippines' rich culture and history," he said. "It's either you write it in Spanish or in one of the country's local languages. I believe using English would deprive the effort of its soul."

Poems in Chavacano

He would have loved to write the poems in Chavacano, the Spanish-based language widely spoken in Zamboanga, but he has yet to find a master in Filipino to give him a chance to translate his Spanish verses. The author plans to collaborate later this year with certain Filipino friends in the academe to do the job.

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Poems in Chavacano

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"I don't really mind if a wider audience consisting of foreigners don't get to understand my work," he said. "I love the Philippines and the Filipino people, and it is for them that I wrote these poems."

LADISLAV LUDVA, ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Philippines, murdered "Mi Ultimo Adios" into Czech.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF RIZALISTA. This won't be all the Czech Republic, Jaroslav Ladislav's Ambassador's ambassador to the Philippines. He has written poems on Rizal and on the Philippines.

Rizaliana collection is book printer's prized treasure

By Georgia Ki

cared by time and foreign events by Jaroslav—was Vibal's latest treasure. "It was all covered with dust and termites," Vibal mused proudly about his latest find—in a forgotten nook of a bookshop.

"My mother said that I should not bring that up here because my books will be eaten up by the termites as well," he told the inquirer at the Vibal Foundation, the social arm of the 30-year-old publishing house headed by his father Alfredo and mother Esther.

The Rizaliana collection has been placed lately a transparent and airtight plastic bag, Vibal said, "to kill the termites." However, no termite will eat up the memorabilia when Vibal and his staff digitize the articles and upload them on Philippiana.net—the launching of which is now at digital is busy and research period."

Sharing book

"I just wanted to share books. I collect old books. I used to take them from children," Vibal said while showing off a modest sample of his wide collection of Philippiana, or printed works on Philippine history and culture.

Vibal pulled up a volume of Rizardo Galang's first Philippine Encyclopedia, published in 1939 until he ran out of books. "There must have been only 1,000 copies of the 20 volumes," he said.

He has one of the early copies of the 1935 Constitution, for pages already yellow-brown with age as well as Enrique Enrique Quiazon's 40-page book "Manuscript" which he secured from the bags at the Heritage Art Gallery in Cubao.

Vibal also has copies of first editions of Rizal's Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo. His page on philippiana.org also shows Vibal's book photos from the Old Books Fair in Madrid in 2000. He wouldn't say how much they want for it. "It might put the prized items in danger," the 40s said.

'She thought I was mad'

Vibal flew thought of making such historical resources available for free via the foundation's website, Philippiana.net and philippiana.

"I told my mother about it in 2000. She thought I was mad," Vibal said. "My mother thought it was crazy to give away free books. How does that sit well with our business model? Our business model is you don't get the book until you give me your payment."

He said he told her this was no longer the case.

Vibal said that all the books uploaded on Philippiana.net are already 50 years old or older.

"As long as the book is already public domain, let's put it there. Give it an audience," Vibal said.

Philippiana.net went online in September 2000 with a modest collection of books and documents in English, Spanish and Filipino. Vibal said an executive, Jaime Mateo, initiated the portal. They were later joined by Spanish historian Carlos Madrid.

Comprehensive collection

"Today it has one of the oldest and most comprehensive collection of books in that Philippines books and documents categorized under history, geography, culture, government, and society," said historian Mauricio, editorial director of the foundation.

The website also features photographs, maps, paintings and illustrations, the Virtual Philippines documentary, Bibliotheca, Will Noble-bag Tagalog, Thibaut Blake and Robert's site, and the Manuel Union Bibliography of the Philippines, 1810 Pinoy Komik Serials, Presidential Inaugurations, and Philippine Filipinos.

"We want to create informed Filipinos and more," Vibal said.

"Right now, when you go to the top ten sites visited by Filipinos you see gaming sites. That's why we have these Filipinos and Filipinos," he added.

The 'in' thing

Mauricio said most of Vibal's partners were American theologians, the Dutch director of Project Gutenberg Philippines, the world's first and biggest provider of free Philippine electronic books; Isaac Romero, a young Spanish historian living in Manila; Dr. Lloyd Esguerra, former dean of the De La Salle College of Computer Studies; Alfonso Ignacio Sison Medina, and Georgina Padilla Zobel of Ayala Land.

Vibal worked for two decades in the Philippine and American publishing industries. In 1993, Vibal moved to New York to study at the New York University Book and Magazine Publishing Institute.

He has a bachelor's degree in business economics from the University of the Philippines.

Wacky

"Free information. Free books. That's the in thing. Free is the new economy," Vibal said quoting Wired magazine editor-in-chief Chris Anderson.

"They think I'm mad. All the other publishers think I'm wacky," Vibal said.

FIRST EDITION. Among Vibal's collections is the first edition of Rizal's masterpieces Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo.

BOOKWORM. Publishing scion, Quezon Vibal, executive director of the family's foundation, boasts about his collection of rare books and memorabilia. Many of these were sought by Filipino and hero records drops and collectibility curators of their bookstores here and abroad for his private collection.

RP to buy 600,000 tons of rice from Vietnam

By Georgia Ki

sued in a telephone interview.

In a statement, Yap said the purchase was made in keeping with government plans to go back to the market to buffer imports in "buffer stocks when the price and other conditions are suitable for us."

"In this instance, we have been able to secure a good deal with Vietnam and saw this as a good opportunity to expand our stockpile, especially in light of the recent trends in global rice prices," he said.

Prices decline

Bureaucrats Thai rice prices fell to about $295 per ton FOB on Wednesday, continuing a decline that took a peak of about $3,000 on April 24 on the back of the Philippine flurry of purchases and expectations by producing nations.

The trade commission, along with other costs of oil and fuel in imports, rising global demand, and the limited production and price speculation, pushed up grain prices to record highs.

The step in the price of rice, a staple the half the world's population, led into a global food crisis that triggered protests around the world and threatened widespread hunger for nearly 1 billion people.

In the Philippines, the rise in the cost of regular milled rice to more than P20 a kilo in April, from about P15-P17 a kilo in March, drove people in queue for more subsidized rice sold at only P15.25 a kilo.

So far, the Philippines has spent around $1.54 billion importing its rice requirements, mainly from Vietnam and Thailand, for the year.

At its last successful rice tender in April, the Philippines paid an average of $1,136 a ton, up 60 percent from a tender in March.

The Philippines scrapped a tender for 675,000 tons of rice in May, saying it preferred to wait for international prices of the grain to decline as more supply reaches the market.

Market very quiet

"The Philippines-Vietnam deal emphasized that Vietnam had ample supply to export and other buyers would shift to buy from Vietnam," a Thai trader said.

Another trader said the market was very quiet. "Most buyers are waiting for lower prices. It is probable that China is expected to lift its ban on rice exports," he said.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said early this month that the country's total exportable rice stock this year would exceed 4 million to 4.2 million tons, of which 2.12 million tons have already been exported.

The country, one of the world's top three rice exporters, which the agency sells cheap to keep down food prices and social unrest, will be the highest in 18 years and cost the government $1.54 billion.

The estimate of a P48-billion deficit this year assumes an average rice import cost of $1,000 per metric ton, including cost and freight.

"For 2000, we expect a higher deficit, but these numbers are fixed," Finance Undersecretary Antonio Rood told reporters. "It's essentially the buy high, sell low policy of the NFA."

The NFA deficit is also partly due to huge interest costs on its outstanding debt of P95 billion to P96 billion, which it borrowed from years of financing rice subsidies, Rood said.

The grain agency is considering selling more rice realtors, with the top tax limit to be sold at P12 to P13.50 per kilogram. The release could lower the agency's deficit this year to P35.3 billion.

"This deficit may go down further if there is a decision to sell it at P18 to P20 a kilo. I'm putting now how much further the deficit may go down at 35, instead of 35.36," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters.

The NFA plans to borrow 95 billion more this year to partly fund its rice purchases, Rood said. Reuters

NFA posted P4B deficit in 1st quarter

THE COUNTRY'S FOOD GRAIN agency posted a deficit of P4 billion for the first quarter, bigger than its deficit for the whole of 2000, due to heavy rice purchases in time of soaring prices.

The country's food grain agency posted a deficit of P4 billion for the first quarter, bigger than its deficit for the whole of 2000, due to heavy rice purchases at a time of soaring prices.

Officials yesterday said the National Food Authority (NFA), the biggest drag on public finances, could post a deficit of as much as P40 billion this year from a shortfall of P21.6 billion in 2000.

This year imports of rice, food-focused rice shipments amid the end of June as it looked to survey domestic supply in the face of soaring prices. Subsidies boost demand for rice from top exporters Thailand.

Demand to drop

Vietnam's food association would meet in mid-June in the capital Hanoi to forecast rice exports from the country's next crop, officials said.

That rice prices were expected to fall further as the world's rice supply increases while demand was likely to drop as key buyers, including the Philippines, had already bought big lots.

The Philippines initially sought to buy 2.1 million tons of rice, not only to cover the protected 15-percent production shortfall, but to also keep the buffer stock within the 30-day level until the end of the year.

The National Food Authority is tasked with maintaining a 15-day buffer stock throughout the year, and a 30-day stockpile during the lean months (July-September). Filipinos consume some 13,000 tons of rice daily.

Farmers in rice among the eight countries in the Philippine government wrote a few weeks ago, urging it to sell rice through a government-to-government scheme. It is the only country that heeded the Philippine request.

Yap had said that Vietnam's office forward part of the agreement signed between Manila and Hanoi earlier this year, with the latter pledging to supply as much as 1.5 million tons to the Philippines if and when possible.

Alternative

After it scrapped a tender for 600,000 tons last month, the Philippines received no alternative tenders for huge volumes even that cut the sump in rice prices in the global market.

The Philippine government will still continue to opportunistically buy rice in the International market to replenish stocks if the typhoon season, but it will do so confidentially so as not to alarm fellow world buyers, Yap earlier said.

He said the Arroyo administration was committed to ensuring the nation's food security especially by stabilizing and quote supplies, but also by providing means to feed at affordable prices and by ensuring fair market practices.

Target production

The government seeks to achieve 90-percent self-sufficiency in rice by 2010, with a target production of 16 million tons.

"Our immediate focus remains, as it is on enhancing the cultivation of rice, stabilizing food prices, and ensuring down to the country," Yap said.

"We will continue to provide MM rice at subsidized prices to those members of our society who are most vulnerable." Reuters

Turn to Page A19, Rizaliana and Rizalists

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Betrayal led to kidnapping, says Ces

Front page A1

by armed men on June 8. Dimampo, a professor of Mindanao State University who has access to the Sayyaf group, served as their guide, as did Zamboanga councilor.

Mariano Hadsim, the driver killed by the ABS-CBN team, had said in a sworn statement that it was Biyaw who led Dillon et al. to their abductors. He described Biyaw as a military agent.

Dillon said Biyaw ordered him to stop the vehicle upon reaching Sitio Adhil in Tumahubong, and normally led the group to the besieged area. He said Biyaw removed alone some time before him.

But Biyaw, who subsequently denied any involvement in the kidnap, denied this. He claimed that upon reaching the armed men's lair, Dimampo told him to go home.

Brig. Gen. Juanito Iddlbas, chief of the Sulu-based Task Force Comet, said Biyaw was released from the Muslims' custody after denying the allegations against him.

'I trusted him'

In a brief phone conversation yesterday with Inquirer Mindanao, Dimampo admitted that he had been helping him in peace-building work, such as resolving clan and family feuds in Sulu.

"I trusted this [man]. I thought I could trust him with my life. Well, it turns out I was wrong," Dimampo said.

"I've been an ironing of people, but I have learned my lesson," he said.

Dimampo said the kidnappers divested him of his wallet, mobile phone, and "everything that I had with me."

He pardoned Biyaw, said Biyaw "left me here in the hands of our captors and he implicated me [in the kidnapping]. But I know the truth will prevail ultimately, and I know Allah is fair and just."

Dimampo was being debriefed by the Philippine National Police in Zamboanga City at the time of the phone interview.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon said investigators would compare the statements of the four ex-captives and driver Hadsim to that of Biyaw.

New perspective

During reporters in a 15-minute press conference at the Manila airport ramp yesterday afternoon, Dillon spoke of a new perspective in her life as a journalist.

"You know, I always go after the story sometimes not thinking of my loved ones, my mom, my kids," she said, her tears starting to gather.

"And this time, I guess, I don't know. I also used to think of those other love ones, that they are already getting hurt. It was so unthinking, irresponsible, in a way to do that to my children, to my mother, my sisters, my brothers, put them through an ordeal like that... And the children [of my crew]."

Dillon and her crew flew in Manila in a private jet some 14 hours after their release.

They were in the company of Sen. Loren Legarda and ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs head Maria Ressa.

"I feel so great, very happy. We did not run out of smiles while we're on plane. And it was a big deal to have surpassed this period where you didn't know whether you'd live or not. You learn a lot and it will strengthen you," Dillon said in a rain of FM lyrics and laughs.

She added: "This is the toughest trial I have ever had in my life, and I'm sure for Angel and Ateneo also. And there were many lessons: Trust in your team, trust in each other to survive, heal ... listen to your boss."

Disobedience

Looking back to June 6, the day of their abduction, Dillon admitted to having broken coverage protocol to some degree when she went ahead with a planned interview with a commander of the Abu Sayyaf.

"I want to make it clear [that] while my office knew to a certain extent what my story was, they were instructions I disobeyed. I was hard-headed in one point, and I disregarded my instincts," she said. "I put the lives of my team in danger... It's a very sobering experience for me," Dillon said.

She said she had been aiming for a story on the new leadership of the Abu Sayyaf and prospects for peace negotiations between the hostile group and the government.

"Maybe we [she and Dimampo] were just both naive. I sensed a story that would members (orphans), because everybody [was talking], who are the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf, where are they headed," Dillon said.

And Dimampo: "[If] there were opportunities, an opening," ventured talks with the government, because the peace adviser saw the new Abu Sayyaf leadership as "more moderate," she said.

But the coverage took a terrifying turn when her group was sheltered and held in a jungle

OUT OF THE JUNGLE Dillon crosses through a heavily forested and hilly terrain into freedom on Tuesday night after being held in a "wretched, horrible place" where you didn't know whether you'd live or not. GJOY LARENA

several hours away by foot from the nearest town.

Asked to comment on speculations that Dimampo might have been a party to the crime, Dillon said, "I trust him."

"Our suspicion is that our guide was betrayed," she said.

As she did in Zamboanga City, Dillon said she and her crew would continue coordinating with authorities to pursue their capture.

She said their captors were "cavalier not to give their real names."

Frustration said he saw different times each day and hence could not say exactly how many strangers held him and the others.

Wretched conditions

Asked to describe the conditions to which she and others were held, Dillon quickly said: "Wretched. Horrible."

She said there was no toilet to speak of, four meals consisted of a plastic (sauce) of instant noodles, and that they slept on hammocks or mats laid on the ground.

"Throughout their ordeal, Dillon et al. felt death coming close with their captors sometimes tying them up and threatening to kill them.

"There were many times I thought it was the end. There was the time we were tied up and beaten with M-14 rifles. It was terrifying," said the cameraman, who managed to bring back the team's camera in one piece.

At one point, the kidnappers threatened to behead Hidalgo-Gutierrez as they had Ressa-Gutierrez during the murder, Dillon said.

"I asked he [my crew's] forgiveness because, of course, I am a reporter and they are my team, and whatever would happen to them should be my accountability... But we are one. We did not blame each other that we ended up there; we were strong, and when one of us was weak, we made him strong," she said.

Eye-opener

Besides the traumas of captivity, a discovery in the jungle has left another lasting mark on Dillon.

"I don't want to justify what they're doing—they are bandits and we're cooperating with authorities as they'd be caught—but I think we must also understand why they are doing that. There were families who were 12 years old, 17, 18, and they were holding guns," she said, sobbing.

"Your eyes will be opened. You'd think, why are these children holding guns instead of holding notebooks and studying?"

Asked by a fellow ABS-CBN reporter if she would ever return to Sulu, Dillon said with a gulp to her tears, Ressa: "The other will see others are anywhere... But Mindanao is vast, right, Maria?"

Asked when she would return to TV, Dillon laughed and quipped: "On TV? When the mosquito bites have cleared up."

SAFE AND SOUND Cameraman Jeremy Encarnacion arrives at Camp Teodulfo Bautista, the threat of beheading from his captors now just a night memory. MARY JOY ANN

UNSTOPPABLE Tears flow freely whenever Ces recounts her ordeal as her colleagues during a news conference at the airport.

NEWS COVERAGE I DI "There were many lessons," says Ces, like, "listen to your boss." Boss chief o Mla lo Ressa, ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs head.

THE PROFESSION Bernardo Dimampo arrives with fellow hostages at the military camp before they are flown to Zamboanga City early Wednesday morning.

THE TEAM Ces Dillon and her new camerawoman Angel Encarnacion, next to each other, the days during a 15-minute impromptu press conference right on the tarmac at the Manila hangar of the Manila Domestic Airport. "We were strong, and when one of us was weak, we made him strong."

Ces case a cautionary tale for media, says gov't

Front page A1

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the story have actually "contributed" to their 20-day ordeal.

"Considering the circumstances and the people who were around that area, the information at the place, and you are willing to give millions any matter or ransom checking on the character of the people who are trying to deal with you, [that] by itself tells a story," Gonzalez told reporters.

It was possible that Dillon, her cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and peace adviser Dennis Dimampo fell victim to a vicious setup, "but I would assume as her part she contributed to it," the Cabinet official said.

Gonzalez also said he would harassment/s refrain from running journalists against going to hostage "hotbeat" areas in Mindanao, recalling how he drew criticism last year when he issued a similar advisory to news crews covering coup attempts.

Following the Nov. 29, 2007 standoff in the Peninsula Manila hotel between government troops and rebel military officers, Gonzalez warned that members of the media who needed cross security cordons for error he interfering in police and military operations.

"I will not issue that warning [again] because they might say I am meddling with your job," he said. "When I issued that statement before, I was attacked vehemently by media, so [now] they do so at their own risk!" if they insist on crowding hot spots in the hunch.

Still, there's a lesson to be learned here by all journalists, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in Malacañang.

"I'm very glad that Ces and her companions are back safe. Let's just hope that while our duty is to get the story, we always say that this is a journalistic pursuit, we wish that we should not throw caution to the wind when we exercise our profession," Ermita said.

"I can only remind everyone that, let that be a lesson," he added. "Dillon and her crew] never just threw in every something that they thought to be important. And does what happened? They were taken captive."

Ermita reminded the media to abide by security measures enforced by the government in crime scenes or areas of conflict.

"We can always invoke [press] freedom," he said. "But when it comes to taking care of the lives of people, we have to be very, very discerning about the situation."

All-out offensive launched

from page A1

the suspect from a photo gallery.

Dalton told the press conference that some of their kidnappers were "as young as 12."

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the kidnappers were young members of the Abu Sayyaf faction of Nadzmi Indanan. He described them as amateurs.

In Sulu, Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, chief of Task Force Comet, said troops started operating in the subboundary of the Indanan, Patikul and Talipao towns "right after Gov was released."

"There will be no troop withdrawals since that we are able to crush them," he said.

But Sabban refused to name who government forces were pursuing. "We cannot afford to make it public at this time, less it jeopardize the ongoing pursuit operation."

Dalton, Encarnacion and Dimaampao were freed in Sitio Danasi in Barangay Lower Bacungan, Talipao, at around 8 p.m. on Tuesday. Sen. Loren Legarda, Isulan Mayor Antonia Suzara and Tofy Yee (see Lady Stone Salabella) had negotiated for their release.

"I immediately sent men to Danasi to collect the three, and they arrived in my house at around 11:45 p.m.," Isnijil told Inquirer Mindanao.

The ABS-CBN team and Dimaampao, who served as guide, were kidnapped on June 8 by a group of armed men. Valderrama was released in Talipao on June 12 after the payment of a "ransom and bulging fee."

HOSTAGE While photographers are snapping away, Gov Cheche Suzara (in blue) hugs Dalton (in white) as Legarda (in white) looks on in Sulu, together with cameraman Jimjimmy Encarnacion and Prof. Octavio Dimampao (not in photo). ALVIN LOPEZ

Ex-captives' reunion

At 5:45 a.m. yesterday, two Air Force helicopters carrying the freed hostages, Mayor Isnijil and his son Haider landed at Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City.

The ex-captives were taken to the PNP Ambulance office where they were reunited with Valderrama, according to the PNP spokesperson, Chief Supt. Nestor Bartolome.

They were later attended by a medical team led by Dr. Roberto Caballero of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command, and "released to rest after a light hot meal," Bartolome said.

Dalton, Encarnacion and Valderrama arrived in Manila in a private jet at 2 p.m. yesterday after a brief press conference, Dalton and Encarnacion were flown in an ABS-CBN helicopter to the Lopez-owned Medical City in Ortigas Avenue, where they were met by family members and some colleagues in the network.

Security was tight at the hospital, and other members of the media were barred from the presidential suites at the 15th floor where Dalton and Encarnacion were confined for a medical checkup.

Separate debriefings

The family then flew down to Manila where, according to Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon, they were to undergo "further debriefing."

Dimaampao was debriefed starting at 7 a.m. At 3 p.m., when he was

Beatification drive for Mother Rosario

A CHURCH GROUP HAS launched a movement for the beatification of its founder, Mother Rosario of Arroyo, OP.

The Mother Rosario Arroyo Commission, based at the Dominican sisters' Motherhouse in Molo, Iloilo City, has requested the faithful to write them about "favors" that they believe were granted to them through the intercession of Arroyo, a great grand-aunt of the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Mother Rosario founded the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, according to Sister Lenore Gerlie of the Mother Rosario Arroyo Commission.

Born Maria Beatriz del Rosario Arroyo in Molo, Iloilo City on Feb. 17, 1864 to wealthy pious parents, Don Ignacio Arroyo and Doña Maria Pilar, she was the only daughter in a family of three children.

"We actually launched our movement in 2004 but it was only recently that we were assisted by Mclean (City-based Fr. Sam Silvestre)," Gerlie said.

The young Arroyo joined the religious life on Jan. 3, 1914, entering the Beaterio de Sta. Catalina in Manila.

She taught at the Beaterio of Manila and later in Linguion, Pangasinan. Morgan C. Ortiz

THE OTHER HOSTAGES

Minutes from gun battle: Kidnapped by an armed group in Kidapawan, Lanao del Norte board a dump truck Tuesday following their rescue by the military in a 12-hour operation. AFP/ROY LAGARDE

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Orly now envoy to China

ONE-TIME SENATOR ORLANDO "ORLY" Mercado is the new ambassador to China, with concurrent jurisdiction over North Korea and Mongolia.

Mercado, 62, who once served as president and chief executive officer of the ex-government MBS-9 television network, led five new appointees announced by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday.

Since Congress is on recess, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued ad interim appointments for the four, subject to later confirmation by the congressional Commission of Appointments.

The President also reappointed election commissioner Moslemin Sema to the Comelec en banc that was a needed to maintain the quorum in the seven-member Comelec en banc, said Ermita.

Macaraniban's nomination was bypassed by the CA during its last session on June 11, the day it approved en masse 182 nominations and ad interim appointments.

The other new appointments announced by Malacañang were: Maria Victoria Cardenas as the third member of the Commission on Human Rights; Senator coalescence Roberto Tan as national treasurer; Sherlyn Cruz, trade undersecretary; and Georgina Yu, chief administrator of the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority.

Ermita said the President would also re-appoint Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Civil Service Commission Chair Ricardo Saludo and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, who were also bypassed by the CA.

Mercado, who started out as a broadcast journalist, was a senator for three consecutive terms from 1987 to 1998 and served as defense secretary of ousted President Joseph Estrada. He was one of the Cabinet members who resigned during the second people power revolution that brought down Estrada in 2001. Abs-Cbn/Gil Cabacungan

Priest in sex scandal sacked

A CATHOLIC PRIEST from Dipolog has been sanctioned and reassigned to the convent for alleged sexual misconduct while serving in a United States parish.

Bishop Jose Manguiran of the Diocese of Dipolog has revealed the priest, by officers and functions of Fr. Reynaldo M. Pardillada, 37, who is accused of having an illicit affair with a married Filipina while serving at the Epiphany Church in Clifton Park, New Jersey.

Pardillada was last week expelled by the Archbishop of Newark after the New Jersey-based 33-year-old Filipina woman, who also happened to be from Dipolog, reported the affair to church authorities.

The woman complained of suffering emotional and physical abuse at the hands of Pardillada when she first met as a visiting Archbishop in Dipolog in November 2005.

She said she finally summoned the courage to complain against Pardillada when he got her pregnant twice and forced her to abort the babies. She said she also suffered two miscarriages.

In an interview posted in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) website, Manguiran said he was imposing sanctions on Pardillada and restricting him to the church convent in Dipolog.

The Dipolog bishop said he has written to the Newark Archbishop apologizing for Pardillada's conduct.

Pardillada was assigned for more than a year as a "formator" of the Saint Mary's Seminary in Ganga, Oroquieta City before being transferred to the archdiocese of Newark. Morgan C. Ortiz

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Manila Water

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS

Effective July 1, 2008, water rates for Manila Water customers will be adjusted due to the combined effects of the Cash Adjustment Charge (CAC) and the Foreign Exchange Differential Adjustment (FXDA) mechanisms of the respective concessionaires. CAC for the 3rd CY 10 year cycle is set at P0.1112 per cubic meter (cu.m.) or P0.11 per cubic meter. This was the result of the depreciation of the peso based on the exchange rate of P40.7 per US$1 as of June 2008.

In line with the government's program to protect low-income households, residential customers consuming 10 cubic meters or less a month will be exempted from the rate adjustment.

REGULATORY APPROVAL

The adjustment in FXDA was approved by the METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) Regulatory Office (RO) in its Order dated June 17, 2008 confirming MWSS Regulatory Office Resolution No. 2007-013-R dated June 18, 2008.

FXDA is a tariff mechanism that was formulated to recover or account for future foreign exchange losses or gains arising from the payment of Manila Water's foreign exchange denominated concession fees to the MWSS as well as debt or fee service requirements of its concessionaire.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Manila Water Company continues its extensive service improvement and rehabilitation program to further improve service levels in areas with intermittent water supply and include the rehabilitation and expansion of the water distribution network, as well as the construction of new water sources. Manila Water is also constructing the Putatan Water Treatment Plant in Muntinlupa City, Southern Tagalog Bulk Water Supply Project and Bataan Gas Water to South Super Highway. It also continues to implement an aggressive service improvement program to reach the fringe areas of Taguig, Antipolo, San Mateo, Rodriguez, Cainta, Taytay, and Angono in Rizal Province and Bacoor, Imus, Dasmariñas, Carmona, General Trias, Cavite City, Tanza, Naic and Ternate in Cavite. Manila Water has also started providing water supply to the towns of Silang, Tagaytay and Alfonso, also in Cavite.

Likewise, as part of the Company's corporate Manila Water is further expanding its wastewater operations and services to cover more areas and customers all over the Metro Manila service area. Manila Water is also committed to ensure the protection of the environment wherein Manila Water has also started construction of centralized treatment and sewer systems for selected areas within its concession to further increase its sewer coverage.

To ensure the sustainability and reliability of water services in the East Zone, Manila Water is also exploring various water source options as well as implementing programs for service continuity in the event of calamities and other natural disasters.

Storm brews off Mindanao

By TJ Burgonio

A LOW PRESSURE AREA EAST OF Mindanao is expected to intensify into a tropical cyclone on Saturday, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The low pressure area, a rain-inducing weather system, was swirling over the Philippine Sea some 800 km east of Mindanao, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"By Saturday, it will become a full-blown tropical cyclone," Pagasa weather bureau chief Nathaniel Cruz Jr. said in a press briefing.

The cyclone, to be called "Frank," will not hit land, but will bring rain over Visayas and Mindanao, he said.

So far, the low pressure area has not triggered rain.

The afternoon rainshowers that occasionally hit some parts of the country are caused by convection, or the process of warm air rising to form rain-inducing clouds, rather weather specialist Robert Jose said.

Today, the country will experience good weather except for the afternoon or evening rainshowers and thunderstorms. This will become cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms over southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao tomorrow.

Jose said the weather bureau expected the weather disturbance, once it intensifies into a cyclone, to recurve and exit through the Philippine Sea, in point of entry.

If ever, this will be the first typhoon this month and the sixth this year.

Pagasa director Prisco Nilo said the bureau expected more than 20 cyclones to visit into the Philippine area of responsibility this year.

"In terms of number, that is above normal," he said during the briefing. "But the strong typhoons will come toward the last quarter of the year."

Pagasa held the briefing to launch the "Typhoon and Flood Awareness (TFA) Week," made possible by Proclamation No. 1505 declaring the third week of June as TFA Week.

The proclamation, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, mandates Pagasa to raise public awareness on the ways of mitigating loss of life and damage to property during storms through a series of activities.

Solar energy for Smart cell sites

SOLAR ENERGY IS NOW BEING HARnessed by Smart Communications Inc. to power cell sites in remote areas nationwide.

The establishment of solar-powered cell sites is part of the company's continuing efforts to adopt environment-friendly operational processes and to complement its existing wind-powered cell sites, according to a statement issued by its Network Services Division (NSD).

The first wind-powered cell site in the country was installed by Smart on Mindoro Island in Cebu in December 2006. The alternative power project was enhanced late last year with the establishment of 20 more renewable energy-powered cell sites, 11 of which are hybrid, or both wind- and solar-powered.

The hybrid cell sites are found in Tuandoc in Kalinga, Ba-ay-Liwasan and Lubo in Abra, Gerona(Bo-ao) and Bamauga in Palauig, Punta Fuego in Bagac (Sweetland), San Isidro, Hinabangan and CBT Colonnade in Samar, Bonbon in Antipo, and Sarangani in Davao del Sur.

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US health care exec sentenced to 5 years for fraud in RP

MADISON, WISCONSIN—A FORMER health care executive was sentenced Tuesday to five years in prison for helping his Philippines-based company swindle nearly $300 million from the US military health insurance program.

Thomas Lutz, 47, said in federal court he took responsibility for the six-year scheme in which Health Systems Corp. bilked $99.9 million from the military's Tricare program through inflated and fraudulent claims.

US District Judge Barbara Crabb said the five-year sentence was modest given the extent of the fraud, but it was the longest she could impose under Lutz's plea deal.

Health Systems and Lutz were initially charged in a 75-count indictment in 2005. He pleaded guilty in 2006 to a single count of conspiracy to pay kickbacks and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors, a deal Crabb called "a huge break" for Lutz.

"It's just horrifying that you were able to take so much money as you did," Crabb told Lutz.

Prosecutors said the company routinely referred claims that were more than 250 percent, operated a phony insurance program and billed for medical services never delivered.

In April, Crabb ordered Health Value to pay $99.9 million in restitution. Under her order, the company must sell all of its assets, including land, hospitals and office buildings, within 18 months. She said Lutz would be responsible for paying the restitution, including at least 25 percent of his income once he is released from prison.

Crabb gave Lutz until March 10 to report to prison. Prosecutors asked for the nine-month delay so Lutz could help the government recover as much money as possible from the company.

Formed in 1997, Health Value owned and operated hospitals and clinics in the Philippines and billed Tricare on behalf of other health care providers. The company served thousands of US military retirees living in the Philippines, whose limits were lowered until the early 1990s.

The company was subpoenaed $300 million by Tricare between 1998 and 2004, and prosecutors believe at least $99.9 million of that was fraudulent.

Lutz, an American citizen, read a brief statement in which he took full responsibility for his company's actions.

"I would like to apologize to the Department of Defense," he said. "I am truly sorry for all those who have been affected."

Migrante sees more abuses against OFWs

By Jerome Aning

MORE FILIPINOS, PUSHED OVERSEAS BY doing unemployment, will suffer abuses because of the lack of a strong migrant rights protection program, the economic workers organization Migrante said yesterday.

Migrante Middle East, in a statement from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said the economic uncertainties facing millions of unemployed Filipinos have left them only one real option to find work abroad even if it means accepting low wages and abusive conditions.

John Leonard Monterona, Migrante-ME's regional coordinator, noted that 2.9 million new graduates are joining a labor force overwhelmed by rising food and fuel prices.

Unemployment was reported at 8 percent in April 2008, compared to 7.4 percent in the same month last year.

He blamed the Arroyo administration's "wrong economic policies" for the spike in the seemingly endless jobless.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Striking oil

IS EXPLORING FOR OIL IN PHILIPPINE WATERS unreasonable a bad thing? For the militant (and highly vocal) fisherfolk alliance Pamalakaya, the answer is unequivocal. Brainbanging Letter #9 (Kissing Mama middleman) has Pilipinas is contributing to oppose the Exxon-Mobil plan to drill for oil in the Sulu Sea. Already it has deployed the familiar anti-imperialist language of certain inner powers. "We will fight this transnational plunder country of President Macapagal-Arroyo's first-time puppetry to US interests," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

EDITORIAL

It has also signaled its intent to engage in a war of activities. Citing its experience in opposing a Japanese oil exploration bid in Tubbataha Reefs, Pamalakaya vowed: "We defeated Japan in that battle, we will prepare for protracted battle against ExxonMobil."

It doesn't hurt the group's cause that one half of the world's largest publicly traded oil company is identified with the notorious Exxon Valdez and one of the worst oil spills in history, or that the enormously expensive business of oil exploration requires investments only giant multinational companies can provide. But we hope Filipinos can read between the lines of news reports and press statements and come—without subscribing to the outdated logic of "American imperialism"—to a reasonable appreciation of the costs and benefits of doing business with oil exploration companies.

In making policy, government should consider the long-term national interest. (Hence, our allergy to unsustainable populist programs like Malacañang's cash subsidies.) Of course, a greater responsiveness to resource exploration proposals from foreign companies may be a reaction to today's regime of skyrocketing oil prices—but we think it is a necessary and even laudable response. Prices may remain high for some time; the possibility of yet another oil shock in the near future cannot be discounted. The country must continue to reduce our dependence on oil imports, lower our energy use and at the same time look for new sources of energy. Why not invest in oil exploration?

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes wisely country optimism when he all but guaranteed, after meeting with ExxonMobil executives last week, that the company "would be able to strike oil in the Sulu Sea." No oil exploration project carries a guarantee; this, in part, is why it is prohibitively expensive (the failures must be subsidized by the successes).

But that ExxonMobil is committed to spending $110 million exploring for oil in the Sulu Sea is no small thing. The government must insist on certain non-negotiable conditions, including the use of technology that would lessen the impact of the exploration on the environment and a fair share of the revenues, if any, but it would be folly for the country to turn down even the opportunity to negotiate. When an oil exploration company comes knocking, it is in the country's long-term interest to answer the door.

This is not to say that no worse may be adversely affected. It is possible, as Pamalakaya asserts, that the livelihood of some fisherfolk communities might suffer, since the project got underway. But it is the business of governments to synchronize between sectors, to alleviate any distress and, if necessary, to prioritize the good of many over that of a few.

This government can sometimes get its priorities spectacularly wrong, or can be manipulated into fueling the inordinate greed of political operators (as in the case of the National Broadband Network), is not an argument for the government to keep all windows and doors locked. It is, instead, an argument for keeping a close eye on all visitors.

The alternative is stark: Turning down all resource exploration ventures—whether for ideological reasons or because of fears of corruption—is consigning ourselves to the equality of misery.

If the ExxonMobil project and other oil exploration ventures also in the pipeline succeed, we will all benefit. Fisherfolk included. That means engine that powers every fisherman's pump boat? It runs on oil.

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A different typhoon

VIEWPOINT

Joan L. Mercado

BANGKOK—"WHAT'S A TYPHOON?" asked my Class Five-year-old daughter Mo Typhoon behind this country, she auctioned Sunday up in our Bangkok Out. Thus, Thai tech farmers hit their sensitive jackpot. In contrast, Filipinos are schooled by 20, sometimes more, typhoons a year.

The list belonged to families of journalists scattered by the Mirror destruction among others, Manila Times' Alfredo Flores and Daily Mirror's Amando Doronila but also Australia's National Press Club president Eddie Mesinkolow joined the Chicago Daily News. (ABC news's today's date of last photo in pseudo-journalism.) Peter Tobyo, Daydreamer correspondent Eddie Lachica were joined by Wall Street Journal.

The capital has a United Nations post in Thailand with an 11/11/11 up list of visits are fields, skyrocketing homes, corrupt generals, some talented people plus increasingly sophisticated locations. "This assignment is for three months," Mr Garrison Uy told me at the Food and Agriculture Organization's regional office around the corner to Rose Garden Palace. It's stood 19 years.

International flights are loud at the new International Airport. They can lock a wedding because resident tell considering jet fuel three physical changes. The plane upwards over 50,000 sq ft, it's 120 feet high from, 166 of which can handle 747-400. Before 1965 U. 1975, Don Muang Airport resembled the dump that it was. Manila Domestic airport today, Arroyo-sized, 18-lot road crammed a the day.

As with the Heavy Agency-International on appeal, go all hands from withdrawal. Still, it is another rail-cum-expressway links it to Bangkok where the 30-plus floors Bayshore Tower dominates the skyline. The 22-story Globehill building was Bangkok's tallest building when we first rented.

The Asian Development Bank's study of many development portfolio notes that "Thailand's road network now outstripped the Philippines. One a month by here the year ahead, almost two a month to be finished. I was stunned out. It is place to see Skyliners.

Important resident economist Carlos Dakila noted that the Philippines with some 89 million people, towers over Thailand's 64 million. Support for family planning are Thailand that's, as he said 1.97%, its "demographic bonus" or a shift to less birth rates coupled with less death rates. Not one of the Philippines 10 provinces has matched this, state in towers, UP's Jessica Pisco points out.

The new Thailand "development" shows more. "Its Human Development Report indicates—from per capita income (1U.S$), infant mortality to schools, health, even cell phones—Thailand enhancing disparities between Bangkok and the rest.

Like Catholic Philippines, Buddhist Thailand has a minority Muslim population. They, like cluster in southern provinces. Some engage in a festering separatist struggle. The resource target Buddhist Thais. Of the 1,200 Thais dead since the violence erupted again in 2004.

For all its economic advances, "the gap between rich and poor has widened" in Thailand, the BBC reports. "Conspicuous consumption and consumerism complement are accepted as part of everyday life." Urban growth has direct into the farming sector.

Since Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Chakri dynasty ascended to the throne in 1946, Thailand has weathered its very through 17 military coups and 28 prime ministers. King Bhumibol "wasn't credited formerly of the coup, like Fujimo emperor or messenger of the gods, like Muslim monarchs of Malaysia and the Middle East," writes Rick Stradley in "The King Never Smiles." Despite his "watered-down and not universally popular

Back to the future

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BUENAVENTURA DIES OVER THE WEEKEND, say thoughts on Independence Day last week. Some 110 years after Emilio Aguinaldo flew the Philippine flag in Kawit, Cavite, the Chief Justice told his audience at the Bonifacio Shrine in Monumento, the Philippines was far from free or independent.

"We are two lines of our freedom and rights in these times. One, we have not fully attained our freedom and rights. Two, foreigners and Filipinos suppress our freedom and rights." Although foreign political colonizers have left our shores, he said, "they have been replaced by other countries are still 'economic colonizers.'" Just as well, we have our homegrown oppressors: "They are the syndicates that monopolize some of the people's votes in the elections is not honored; they are the conglomerates which grab the land of small farmers and do not care about the plight of our poor countrymen; and they are those who use the government for their bank on their duty to seek for the good of the people over their own self interests."

I guess I should leave whatever he spoke. By his own irrevocable choice, it is undoubtedly not in the freedom and rights department, aside, surely championing both until the meltdown of both of government. In those I have said and used the lack of effect of elected and human rights commissioners itself vociferated them. While at it, I infer that opportunity to express my appreciation for what he has done for the Supreme Court. He's the only one standing in the path of the noted "supreme" being followed by the term "folly" in reference to the institution. I exaggerate of course—there are other justices on over a debt of gratitude to. But I don't mind doing so, if only to dismantle the point.

Having said that, I'd like to go beyond what Puno has said about independence and my find. Even when I stand at least, the problem is so much worse. It's not just that we haven't completed it. Some of the things we've had backsliden, it's that 110 years after, independence, we're back to where we started. Or well below that. We're back in Juan Ricafort's times, with all its cruelty and haughtiness.

The words about Filipino leaders' contempt to honor. One is Ferdinand Marcos saying when he first became president: "The country can be good again." And two is Manuel Quezon saying when he fought for independence: "I'd rather see the country run like hell by Filipinos than like heaven by the Americans." Marcos was wrong. The country became miserable again, as most of Pinoy's in fact had for decades. Quezon thanked Answers And Question, and he got his wish.

But nevertheless today in Rizal's times is by no means super bad. Two things in particular stand out in that respect.

One is a functional government which seeks to serve the Filipino last. The Spanish colonial government, of course, existed to serve friars, to serve friars, not its subjects. The current government exists to serve citizens to serve interests, and in cases. The Spanish government taxed the indios to death; the current government lavishes the citizens to death. The Spanish colonial government enforced its wealth while the indios wallowed in misery; the current government wallows in wealth while the citizens wallow in misery. The Spanish colonial government kept the indios ignorant; the current government keeps the citizens ignorant. The Spanish-appointed governors-general and friars colluded to keep the subjects subject; the self-appointed president and bishops collude to keep the flat Mid faithful.

The governors-general were corrupt in the extreme, paying off the indios to keep their jobs; their term, expired; the current Palace occupant is corrupt in the extreme, paying off everybody in sight as well, from ex-civil, and he finally" the long tenure extend—and a rate stabilizing force.

Today's prime minister is Samak Sundaravej, he recently called on President Macapagal-Arroyo as declared by Samak produced. He also declined Ms. Arroyo's request for long-term economics for Thai-rice, provides reliable conditions of.

Samak is picking up after tanks rolled into Bangok again in September 2006's bloodless coup. The military junta, now last year, drafted yet another new constitution and held, yet again, elections to confirm leaders in office and.

Those that ever empire in oil prices which hit $140 a barrel this week. Official inflation for April was pegged to 8.2 percent, seven-year high. But the Bureau of Commerce assures that low prices, under martial law, cause less controls that domestic-demand. Ignoring international realities can cannot be sustained.

Thailand's educational system is many food stalls deep, from Chiang Mai to Phuket. The majority long-term Thai-level poor reports that has backwards, the Philippines includes others.

Censorship has been lifted. The Bangkok Post, for example, but the government for "choosing victory" at every pocket—it's Islamists, dissenters, drug producers, guilty persons, and now it's only first operation." Seeking appeal to the "enemy" is the opposition downscored. But poverty.

The tanks, however, tip toe with self-censorship on the military, judiciary, and specially the monarchy. Thus, the press never take who will succeed Bhumibol when, like all of us, "he shuffles off to mortal coil."

There is little chance that Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn can fit his brothers shoes," says the Second Wiz University study. "How Thais handle your feeling to do so."

The succession problem will unleash a difficult era politics. In others will spill beyond Chitralada Palace into domestic countries. But that's for another column.

(E-mail: joanlmercado@gmail.com)

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Remarkable generation at UP

THE ARROGANCE OF A HANDFUL OF GOVERNORS who are disgruntled over their league's failure to bring down the leadership of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) is remarkable. They would rather take the government league away from the grass umbrella coalition rather than submit to the leadership of newly-elected Ulap president, Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos, who heads the City Mayors' League and others backed up by all the other leagues. A united Ulap, composed of 250,000 to 300,000 elected officials, is a force for the country, in a strong, potent force for good and change in the nation formed in three cases of crisis, but now the grass coalition is in the period of a power struggle. To my mind, the only valid question is, did the women members of Ateneo de Class '78 have the right to exercise their democratic and peaceful assembly to the maximum? If it's valid, then the governors should keep quiet and try to win in the electoral election.

* * *

Last Sunday noon, the wives of PMA Class '80 gathered in a Makati restaurant to celebrate the birthdays of Doris Bedshaw and Bimbo Mistica. The meal was preceded by a program of songs and dances. Among the guests were broadcast journalist Cec Belleo and her twin daughters, as well as the mother of her mother, Lala Espiritu Evaña, who left 10 children of her own. Lala is the widow of Brig. Gen. Servando Evaña, assassinated by rebel elements.

That the bishop carries very little influence was clearly the effort of many people, most especially local members of Iglesia, stubbing their toes in confusion and utterly help-lessness. For instance, at yesterday's board meeting of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, Philippine Independent Church Supreme Bishop Rev. Fr. Antonio Ledesma Sapitula, SSS, chose not to show up. Instead, he sent a letter, almost his minister's interrogator, reached him last week. He was just leaving Belfast in Northern Ireland, where he had accompanied a group of Muslim leaders who wanted to observe how the re-peace process is working. Sapitula said he was only two hours away from Belfast, where he lived in the Irish capital of Dublin, and he was able to reach there tonight at their worst trying to catch

Belinda Olivares-Cantiveros

Political Tidbits

desk pilots need to request civil duty help in India.

Regarding the power in Subic, the ambassador noted that too many groups involved in real-ous wars across the world have been going there to study what has become the role model for modern economies. Leaders of both sides of the conflict have been traveling there since they decided on a truce. It first set the tenets that listed other three presidents. Iquinta stated that while a number of non-western states remain, including the biggest were of all, the referendums that would make the people of Scotland independent from Britain are unlikely to work with the UK or go with Ireland—there is a steady effort at confidence building.

In fact, it's very likely that yesterday's welcome letter about City of Life because the Filipino names in the Gaza strip was influenced by the Belfast peace process. Well this story spilt out to the West Bank? Nobody knows, but it's moving mind reports that there are many on both sides who are tired of being run over by the bulldozers. And this is also the reality many people ashe for peace and development. Iquinta said the UK is ready to help out here, with no real clues hammering Sapitula's Tony Blair calling to journey here for peace anytime.

* * *

The annual ceremonials of the University of the Philippines was resumptive, from 1.8, but the grand reunion of UP students will take place at the Araneta Coliseum this Saturday, June 21, preceded by three evenings of concerts at the CCP Folano I look back on my own generation, the UP's liberal arts college in the late 1960s and early 1960s I am amazed at the easy precocity. It was a group that made headlines in various ways and achieved professional distinction. Among those in that batch were Cayetano Bernke, Ishmael Bernal, Celedonio Mollet Ochoa, Jose Parayno Bendijo, Jose Ma. Sison, Jaime de Lima Bautista, Teodoro Locsin, Sr., Ina Guerrero Sison, Gemiliano "Sonny" Abad, Roberto Carreon Romero, Antonio Lim Lagdameo, Peter Lacaba, Federico Alcantara and Gregorio Fernando. This Sunday there will be a reunion of alumni of what we used to call "LA," now the College of Arts and Letters, to be held at Bahay ng Alumni on the UP Diliman campus. It will kick off with a motorcade by the Kadipul Mapua at 11 a.m., followed by low lunch and reunion rounds (no speeches). Spearheaded by Ara and Letters alumni president Tony Aquinas, this reunion is expected from everyone to me all began in this college: the fun and camaraderie, UPKEnan, etc.

* * *

Beth Rosadanda and the rest of the Beth Group, chaired by Fr. Antonio C. Go, S.J., whom I have been writing as volunteer PRO for many years, will hold an evening of thanksgiving and fellowship to celebrate with its saintly founder and president, Fr. Jose Ma. Cullen, SJ. Fr. Cullen is a friend and I'd years as a champion of women's development. The evening will feature a benefit concert, "If I Were for Poor Children," with singer Basil Valdez and the Bohol Pulse Choir, with special appearance by the Angeles, tallest as the host version of the tallest volunteer. I live. The concert will be held on Aug. 8 to 8 p.m. at the Araneta Mini Pavilion. Tickets, Xavier School of Nuvali, Ateneo de Manila University and Assumption Convent, Makati, are available at 6 p.m. We invite the public to support this concert as the proceeds will help pay of the seed money for an endowment fund to sustain Beth's programs and projects for poor children.

* * *

Carols former UP president and now Kalayaan College president Jose V. Abueva on the skilled programs Cecile Alvarez and I have on the Filipino people's way of working from that other working Canadian citizen, to earn her right to become a permanent resident. But for her modest ambition, she would have been assured of getting more than one job offer. Indeed, Angela Ong, who is the required three years of service as a caregiver under Canada's live-in caregiver Program, did succeed in a distant she did not choose to have. She might even have considered staying on after the three years, but while there was when the was only, Angela, local small way, had supported the health care system that she now deeply feels needs to care for her.

She can't possibly feel bitter about Canada. She is being treated after by generous and independent people who are providing their services for free. She is having her medications with the financial support of friends, neighbors, and members of her organization.

Even granting that there is a way to the system, again, it cannot be said that in order to cater a few thousand dollars in health care costs to five hundred, Canada can't afford to provide the necessary funding. Angela back to her homeland, the Philippines, is country with no accredited health care system, to-the.

Comparatively the Manila provide valuable home care activities to thousands of Canadian families. They enable Canadians who use their services to lead productive lives, and to maximize their contributions to the economy. Yet they are denied by the Canadian government to accept and process Filipino-citizen home or death. Angela has served this country and paid her taxes and duly. She has more than earned the right to remain in Canada and care from Canadian but most refugees.

Canada's position is a country pure, not on the more cost and moral application of its laws, but on the basis of application of its laws and the dignity of its spiritual leaders in doing what is morally right.

Send feedback to avsopeli@gmail.com

Dying Filipino caregiver in Canada being kicked out

BY MY COLUMN LAST WEEK ON "CAREGIVER" the stories, I ended by saying the issues should have a sequel. Well, it's that column piece that is having a sequel. And this is for Filipino caregiver Angela Tumbali, hailed as the "Live-in Lover of '08."

I now stop solely to protest the injustice visited upon her. Rather, I'll let us see the portrait of a struggling Filipina piece ("Our name rules, since for Angela Tumbali, 32, it's written in the Flores for Canada Day.

"Costs Lupa may go to sun, to a do breakfast, dinner—call him a real mother, better, call, call Mother's Day—Filipino caregiver—who came to our country to prove the we're ing.

Her parents live in Davao—10 kilometers approved a month her work, saying the government to allow her and her family to join her in Canada. Angela's request was denied.

Tumbali is the breadwinner of her family. She is the mother of two children, Lyka, 11, who is in the Flores for Canada Day.

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Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Human Face

Angela reasonably be required to come narrative detailed his health and work problems.

"She came here in 2003. Her sister is work. Her sister is now there, she paid her visas. It is so simple as this. Here is another principle we are Canadians: we do what is simple.

Tumbali would have earned permanent resident status when her three years were up. She did not choose to get cancer in 2006. We are going her to choose. We are sending her home to die.

You can read her story yourself here by logging on to www.pinoy-n-pinoy.info. The petition letter addressed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper is there for anyone to sign. I was the 805th signer. There is room for hundreds of personal journeys.

I personally know one of the persons behind the petition. My 13-friend schoolmate Alba Abueva-Magno and her husband Daniel are trying to gain as many signatures as could be gathered before Aug. 8, the deadline to be sent home. How are signatures from the latter?

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask that you grant Angela Tumbali, a caregiver from Davao, a PR (pha-caregiver) who has been ordered to leave the country by August 8 and whose application for permanent residency has been refused on the ground that her illness might pose excessive burden on the health care system.

We regard the deportation order against Tumbali as unfair, cruel, inhumane, and against Canadian values. Her illness is a terminal one. Canada's international reputation as a humane and compassionate nation ...

Like the thousands who hope for a better life in Canada ... Tumbali answered Canada's call for caregivers and has served in Canada since 2003, separated from her husband and six siblings. She worked hard at a low-paying job. She delivered more than the quota of working hours that other working Canadian enjoy, to earn her right to become a permanent resident. But for her modest ambition, she would have been assured of getting more than one job offer. Indeed, Angela Ong, who is required three years of service as a caregiver under Canada's live-in caregiver Program, did succeed in a distant she did not choose to have. She might even have considered staying on after the three years, while there was when the was only, Angela, local small way, had supported the health care system that she now deeply feels needs to care for her.

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Salceda in drag

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

DAD MAGAME DE POMBOSOS, MUDDLES OF SOOR TO 10 who has some cheek to go to a presidential of the presidential economy. "What an, the Philippines is the nation's "we're in comes to mind whenever Jose Salceda talks of a "Bush's Ark" policy which seems to be in with a the image of a Great Flood. I can't help but wonder if Salceda has also explained why the great Pinoy entrepreneurship. Also, Magpie's prescription for coping with the present situation is that growth rates "can help conserve the social capital by reducing the family-size."

In the street there's no use smoke, and as for eating condition there's no use in office buildings. I can stay the economical and economical Salceda simply remarkably as "hungry and ugly." Why is an economist so hungry? Because he's on a diet. Why is he ugly? Because he's a privileged blogger pulls up his sleeves and speaks, "Hear ye!" Complete with a photo to most of a cash handout so, I don't know. Drive by Salceda? Auto Classics, that is). I mean to you, to others?

In 2007, on May 30 ("During the joke"), I reminded the nation that "for all these things—lowering lay-offs—interest, big political gambits, selling government assets and raising taxes—you need a government to function. Without it, you're not a people or a nation." Perhaps I should have warned instead of prices. Back then, I reminded the nation that "The fact cannot stated against (Manuel Rollay—that businesses were encouraged to pay taxes ahead of time, so government could report

good income numbers sooner in other words, she does downing that, isn't every up the poor income numbers sooner, and that the full effect couldn't get to people in collect enough—taxes into only the actual collection of all the payments when people's paying in the wake of its gains.

The lesson there was that inconvenience were not, in terms of the President's former critics put it, the Chinese's fault. But that's were we are much the time of the Palace's members and/or secondary when it comes to the national treasury. Spend first, figure out the bills later, spend on other first, and every one else, later.

Don't look, the President's newspaper about the credit ratings agencies are shaking her enthusiasm about herself who supported by the ignorance-making a bit because of the dubiously clear in the United States. Similarly being the bad economy made their negative effect on the Palace's propaganda was realized in turn. But this only served to disguise the fact that the great government itself came had lost much of its credibility. It is the reason why the unrounded under all those various shifts. Recall that the fact the glorious government had hoped to do what could be the deficit but by last January it hadn't finally decided to borrow that money.

Meanwhile, business was left to fend for itself in the Palace's priorities, it business, because, all economies, continuing the recession of the Bilibig era, ignored by the hand.

If you have any doubt that this administration has a fundamentally hostile attitude to business, recall that when the President instituted the political will we regard the SEC she had no problem with her congressional allies paying the salaries of business. As Magpie observed, "As a result, this practice set of taking employees away had was tolerated and in fact, it actually helped the country as new investments that might have created better employment and business opportunities for our people. It encouraged not restraint among the way or at the very least an avoidance." Which, until now, would only have lose the personal sensible saying the deficit.

Some politicos palates with the best-polled, fine, think of the consequences, have made blunders, think destroying the SMS. Even Jose Ortiz (Jose Ortiz) seemed to be in the dark about the Palace's decisions with spirit, then calling for all bookings run into the administration's other dirty little secrets. It's nothing is smuggling—you can be sure of that, and the President is not the only, but any possible related thieves.

Let me reside to the Bond and discussing legislative economy of Salceda to point out that Salceda's other economics I've made about the Presidency is being manipulated by me. The President's government, the short-term plugging of political holes; her wavering, the slip of utility about various sources, whatever one slip of more springs another look. She may have been clever and tell something, but her grand dreams, for whom Jose Salceda emerged she went below dock and the underpass to drift.

When Japanese fishermen announced it wasn't worth it, economically, to go out to sea during the season, Noynoy Aquino's Department of Energy secretary Jose Salceda's response was to say that the fishermen were lazy. Are a result from the Palace. Just an announcement of more short-term plans.

Let me say that, by all means, there's urgency in providing relief to the poorest of the poor. There is a need to provide relief in the middle class, too. However, the administration that took a serious amount of campaign pride in attending to the problems never strongly associated with the necessary being sustainable and how just Mister Manuel Roxas.

Heart in cyberspace

"SOMETIMES, I WISH THAT I WERE YOUR COMPUTER so you could see."

These were the most last few months that I have ever heard from my father. And although it's been a decade since the first time I fell when my dad told me this, the memory still lingers and makes me go numb with guilt. Guilt for being an ungrateful daughter, who wouldn't take chat with strangers on first class global Glitz.

Guilt for not listening.

At the time this happened, my father was based in Doha, while my mother, brother and I were in the Philippines. Thus, the only time we had together as a family was on weekends. The internet additions on the

Young Blood

Natasha Ako Cruz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Or unfunny compositions from the twenty-something and below. —Ed.

at the time, however, was a DC with its slow connection. And I was glad as it until someone pulled me off.

Being a teenager in the late 1990s, when programs such as mIRC and ICQ were the cool thing, I could spend hours just chatting up a storm with people I've met in the net. In addition, like myself, only knew me by my screen name. Because, I did not know much about them either. The fact that we could spend hours chatting with each other every day was reason enough for me to believe I really knew them. Or was I just succumbing on image to my hand of who they really were?

The virtual world is such an interesting place. We can search for anything on Google, or broadcast your own work on YouTube, and even comment your own online presence on social networking websites such as Facebook or Friendster. But the biggest part is that we can, indeed, "Status Monitor". "... Ano na ba nangyari kay Lani anyway. I was anything, I wanted to, I can be compromised, a woman stalker, and you wouldn't know the difference. Or would you?

So when reality to the difference that technology has brought upon the present generation? Many of us grew up without the internet, and even if we did have it, we have developed into an indispensable necessity in a span of a decade. Words such as "text" or "e-mail" have grace into our mouth a part of our vocabulary, and we probably haven't taken notice of it. There are only a few things that we may spot on the outdoor. Like the virtual world, the reality is much there one-plus.

Keeping in touch with people is no longer as difficult as it once was. Long gone are the days when one had to spend hours handwriting a letter and mailing it at the post office, and wait weeks for it to reach its destination. Today you have the luxury of instantly sending a message through Facebook, Friendster, or even hearing a video conference over Yahoo or MSN Messenger. The list of options just keeps on growing with people constantly creating newer programs that enhance online communication.

Constantly updating your self-image on the other hand, have become somewhat of a pandora with virtual realities. You could become an Internet celebrity by posting videos up on YouTube, like Chelsea Lumboyo's Happy Slip Problem. Or else online band, you could also become the object of mainstream fame, like Pinoy Rock group Parokya ni Edgar. Or, like me, a nobody.

Real-world issues, movements, and institutions have also taken on different forms. The rise in the number of cases of cyber bullying suggests that bullying is no longer confined within the walls of a school. National activists and protest campaigns have also taken on secondary purposes. Text-messaging now offer online programs where you could get a university degree without stepping on campus. Even online groups have used the internet as a source of publicity, exercises and maintaining a global network.

The impact to our present and future technological change is undeniable. People are getting to have an online presence just as much as a physical one. The nature of information gathering, identity formation, and methods of conducting business have to adapt to this change. Infrastructure and means of communication likewise transformation, regardless of whether we want to or not. Perhaps it's because evolution is a necessity we need to adjust, without realizing how much it has changed our lives. I know for sure that it has changed mine.

I am now finishing off my Media and Communications degree in Australia, while my family is spread across the globe. The internet, in many ways, has been my lifeline, and still is today. The only difference is that now I don't have to come my family's meeting place, given the geographical distances separating us from each other.

They say "home is where the heart is." I can assure you that my heart is definitely in cyberspace, since that's the place I go to be with the people I love.

The good news is that my dad eventually learned to chat on MSN, and now figure his way through the Internet. In a way, he finally got his wish of letting my computer screen. And perhaps, he was, eventually right. Dyslan!

Natasha Ako Cruz, 21, is a media and communications student at the University of Melbourne.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions in e-mail to youngblood@gmail.com, all together with your address, age and the school/course and year you're taking up. If employed, please state where you're holding and the company you work with. Only if Inquirer to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

Fighting on

"To those who are disappointed that we couldn't get all the way, especially the young people who put so much into this campaign, it would break my heart if, in letting down of my part, I in any way discouraged any of you from public service."
—Sen. Hillary Clinton

Deeper in debt

"Sadly, the government is suggesting an interim measure that will only deepen the debt we will soon have to pay years. This debt will again be paid for by you-do-be-Cha. They call that a solution or raise the people deeper in debt?"
—Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Rep. on energy Secretary Angelo Reyes' proposal to open the Malampaya Natural Gas Field

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LETTERS

Don't blame Meralco for high power rates

I AM NOT INVOLVED IN THE ELECTRIC power industry, directly or indirectly. When the issue started hitting the headlines, I had just as many questions to ask. But my questions are a means search for truth. Then, they are reasonably answered. I put them to rest. What irritates me is when the same issue is raised again and again and again, presupposing me to wonder. Is this about raising an issue or brainstorming especially in finding the truth?

Here's my take, based on fact:

• Meralco is not the reason power rates are high! Meralco's distribution rates are only 12 percent of the total bill. When my family sees its power bill, the transmission and distribution, Meralco charge[s] the second lowest power rates in Asia. Yes, in Asia. Their marginal line was declared and the test is latently. How Meralco kept its course; it doesn't transmit, it just distributes.

• There is nothing that Meralco does that is not provided for by law. Meralco is the most regulated industry. It cannot move "an inch" without permission. Sometime too, so-called "plant deferment," etc., still [is] scanned by legal contracts and provisions. Secondly, all utilities are treated the same way—not only in this country but all over the world. So, why the witch hunt?

• There are no exorbitant deals. If

WHITENS FULLY RESTORES YOUR SMILE

ERC people get pay from gov't, not from DUs

THE RIDDLE TO THE MAY 19 COLumn titled "Meralco: Because the ERC approved it"? Month. Gone.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), precisely the instrument "if I am not mistaken, the salaries of the ERC and the Water Regulatory Board (WRB) are taken from what the franchise holders pay to these two agencies that regulate the power and water utilities, respectively. If the power companies and the water concessionaires delay payment, the regulators get no salaries. The regulators get their pay from the companies they supervise? How can we expect them to sternly regulate the companies where their pay comes from?

For the benefit of Gon and the general public, we would like to clarify that the compassionate and other reimbursements of all ERC officials and employees, not the basic salaries of permanent officers, are derived from the general appropriations. Not a single centavo of the ERC's budget comes directly from the entities it regulates. ERC's earnings by way of supervision fees, filing fees and other fines and penalties collected from its regulated entities are all remitted to the government as, why a Meralco paying bigger or more than First Gen? In fact, Napocor is charging Meralco more higher than it does other customers.

• Someone said: First of all it's provided by law. Second, every distribution company is allowed the same revenue loss. If there is a suspected abnormal loss, damage the line, don't discuss the rates.

• Does company use? The members looking but what does it cost the consumers? Two countries pay LWS. That's right, two countries. If Napocor is huge (there it's rates—say what Republic Illuminated Air says suggests... that will) causes a savings of US centavos. Why not look at that instead?

• I asked one utility owner. Do you pay your own bills. The person said, "Hindi, di doon!" I make a difference! You are just paying yourself!" You are paying yourself. So whether you pay or don't pay it doesn't make a difference, and that again, all utilities do it... so why the witch hunt?

• Clean deliveries. My aside already explained the issue. But the issue has didn't stop. At 1st tax interests. There are a commitment to purchase. Otherwise, which lender is going to lend money without this? Who would build the power plants? Remember, this was done during an energy crisis and it was vital that power plants be built. First Gen was ready on time. Napocor wasn't ready with its transmission lines. So are we to blame?

Oh, let me add. My family does have a record of service and integrity. This has been handed down from generation to generation to generation—and, as during martial law, even at the risk of life and business. Integrity and service are a vital part of our family constitution. That's why all these allegations do hurt. I really hope that through the hype, the public will see the real issues at hand.

—G. SALUDEZ,
Virginia_Saguil@yahoo.com

Latest news on Jonna 'buried'

PUBLIC PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS registered in the vice crisis, oil price hikes and the Mendiola controversy, on cases that loom very significantly on the future of our political process inclusively conducted a Dutch court allowed prosecutors to pursue charges against Jose Maria "Joma" Sison for his involvement in a number of murders, [illegible] committed against his communist comrades and [illegible].

This was an important development that our nation has long been waiting for to find out the culpability of Sison, who, while living all these years in hiding in the Netherlands, has been widely [illegible] as one of the masterminds of those [illegible] in these pages. But it seems the editors of our newspapers thought otherwise. Instead of giving the story the front-page treatment it deserved, considering that Joma is a known enemy of the state, some of them indeed buried it in the least pages while others did not print the story at all.

Most editors always prioritize negative stories over positive stories like this one for a space on the front pages of their newspapers?

—ESPERSEE JACINTO,
lawyersjacinto@ymail.com

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Across the NATION

GMA orders Subic 'shabu' haul burned

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday ordered the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to coordinate with the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority the destruction of shabu smuggled into the Subic Bay Freeport in May.

The order to PDEA director general Dionisio Santiago was "pursuant to the instruction" of Ms Arroyo, Secretary Gregg Sengmanik, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, said in a memorandum.

The more than 700 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) recovered in the first port should be "burned within the public and media view," Benemerito told Santiago.

Undersecretary Antonio Villar, PMS chief, and SBMA Administrator Armand Arroyo were forwarded copies of the memorandum.

LPG tank explosion

Santiago was also instructed to "report on the implementation for coordinating purposes."

The President's instruction came a few days after the explosion of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank in one of the vans.

Villar said the Department of Interior prosecutor in Olongapo City has yet to issue an order for the destruction of the contraband seized by Bureau of Customs operatives on May 27, 28 and June 7.

Three were found in the car of suspect Anthony "Tenner" Ang, in a van at the warehouse that Ang's company rented, and on Subic Bay.

The warehoused haul had been locked in a container van kept at the office of the Task Force Subic, the anti-smuggling arm of the SBMA.

In a related development, one of 13 people used by the PNCC and PDEA in connection with the shabu smuggling inside the Subic zone to clarify that he is not an incorporator of Ang's company, the Hua Long International Inc.

The first report of the Subic-based Bureau of Customs agents, identified him to be among the incorporators.

Political color

In San Jose, Harry Sin, through his lawyer, said he is the vice president for operation of Anglo Auto Commodities Corp.

The PNCC corrected the error in its June 5 summary report on the case.

Lawyer Edmund Aragay, SBF deputy director, said the war included in the complaint filed for violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (Republic Act 9165).

Aragay said it was in Anglo family's warehouse where a van containing the bulk of the contraband (162 kg) was found.

The case started to take on a political color after a legislator cautioned customers her family was being dragged into the drug crackdown, without categorically saying it, pointed to a senator as the one who should be investigated.

Zambales Rep. Mitzgee Magsaysay wrote she feared what she called "rumors" surrounding the confiscation of the drugs.

In a press conference, she said there had been talks that on the day of the seizure that "a son of a senator was presiding (customs) official" and purportedly framing the drug lords.

"There was also the rumor that [the prime suspect] was spirited out via a private plane," she told reporters.

She thinking of only one reason for the smuggling "a government and it's because the elections are near," she said. Priscilla Dregan, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Christian G. Esguerra in Manila

VAGTHESIS

Alone fisherman heads out to sea in Bangar, Bangar-dePhoto to perform his daily task, which environmental degradation is making more difficult to do.

Floods kill 2 kids crossing swollen river in Davao town

TACLOG CITY—FLOODS WHISTON a surprise in two fourthern Mindanao provinces yesterday, killing two children crossing a swollen river and sending evacuees on a search for five others who were declared missing.

Insp. Ariel Bueno, of the Manay, Davao Oriental police office, said Renan Quibo and Vergie Sumalding were confirmed dead while five of their classmates were missing.

Rest of the missing were identified as Gerson Tupluano, Jeppy Quibo, Jinggoy Quibo, Jun Ray Sumalding.

The fifth missing child was not immediately identified.

Bueno said the children were crossing the 20-meter wide Manbuaan River in Sumagay Tacurong at about noon when strong currents swept them away.

The river had swelled as a result of strong rains that forced the children's school to suspend classes and teachers to send their pupils home.

The children were pupils of the New Maibuyan Primary School which was only 15 meters from the river.

"The school's faculty decided to send the pupils home," said Bueno.

He said three pupils were rescued by residents but the seven other children were swept away.

The bodies of the two dead children were recovered and no fatalities were hoping that three missing would be found alive.

In Davao del Sur, officials of Digos City and Bansalan town urged residents near riverbanks and creeks to ensure their homes in the rainy season was expected to trigger more flooding.

Digos City Mayor Ronnie Lamas said past experiences showed that those living along the Digos River were vulnerable to floods.

Although nobody was reported injured in the latest overflowing of the river on June 3, Lamas said it would be better if residents heed the warnings and vacate the area as soon as they can. Prisnelon Lim, Hafiz Aguirre and Orlando Dilon, Inquirer Mindanao

Mindanao rice prices starting to plunge

PRICES OF RICE IN MINDANAO were predicted to plunge in a few months as government efforts to flood the market with cheap rice converge with traders appear to be working.

In Oroquieta City, a regional official of the National Food Authority (NFA) said prices in northern Mindanao were likely to decline by the fourth quarter of the year.

Camilo Magtibay, NFA assistant regional director for Northern Mindanao, said harvests in September were likely to increase supply and decrease prices.

Prices fell from P32,000 to P1,800 per 50-kg bag of rice as a result of a recent NFA auction, he said.

NFA rice competing with commercial varieties made it unprofitable for traders to hold on to their supplies and wait for prices to increase.

He said the NFA increased the number of its outlets and increased allowances per buyer to 5 kg from 2 kg.

Starting this month, the NFA sold three varieties of its cooking P18.25 per kg, P33 per kg and P32 per kg.

In Iligan City and elsewhere in South Cotabato, prices of commercial rice have declined following a projected good harvest.

Jose Ghent, president of the Koronadal Grains Retailers Association, said the price of the cheapest rice variety have gone down from P48 to P37 a kg. M1 variety now sells at P36 per kg from P42 per kg. T Tenner went down to P40 per kg from P48 per kg and luxury-brand now costs P50 per kg elsewhere.

Ghent said even prior to the rice crisis, prices have always been dictated by supply and demand—high demand and low supply equals high prices and low demand and high supply equals low prices.

"The start of the harvest season anticipates additional rice supply to the market," Ghent said.

The supply of government-subsidized rice imported from Thailand and other countries also buried palates to go down, said NFA provincial manager Bienvenido Bueno.

According to Bueno, NFA rice is still the cheapest at P18.25 per kg while the lowest-priced commercial variety costs P36 per kg.

In the Cordilleras, the NFA said it will double the volume of rice that is now supplying the region.

Danny Bautista, NFA director for Cagayan Valley and the Cordilleras, said the NFA would also open a warehouse in Banko, Mt. Province, that could store up to 30,000 bags of rice for Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga and Apayao.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, in his visit to Banaue, Ifugao, on Saturday, got irked when he discovered that the NFA was retailer there was allowed to add 70 centavos to the selling price of P18.25 a kg. The retailer said the markup was supposed to cover freight or hauling cost and mall rental.

"No other costs should be added to the P18.25 a kg," Yap said.

Yap also took to task the NFA for the slow distribution of rice when he saw buyers who claimed they had been lining up for almost two hours waiting for their turn to buy.

This prompted Yap to order the agency to add more outlets and double the supply of rice to be sold, particularly on market day.

Pantoja said supply of rice in the Cordillera and Cagayan Valley for June has been increased from 91,800 to 162,000 bags.

There are at least 600 licensed NFA grains retailers in these regions, but Bautista said more retail outlets would be accredited soon. Ryan Rosauro and Charlie Solitas, Inquirer Mindanao and Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Church leaders lead uproar vs Baguio STL

BAGUIO CITY—MYTHS HE HOES not represent the city's Catholics because some of them gamble, Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon on Tuesday marshed with elderly residents and evangelists to City Hall to protest another planned revival of the government's small town lottery (STL).

The protesters dominated a public hearing called by the city council's committee on laws to hear public sentiment regarding an offer made by Green 2 Corp. to operate STL in the city.

The religious groups said STL advocates should not take advantage of the economic crisis to get approval to operate.

Green 2 Corp. made the same request in 2006 and again in 2007, but was rebuffed each time, according to city records.

Pleading an anointed that read, "Righteousness," Cenzon said, "I condemn speak for the Catholics. Most of those who gamble are Catholics ... I represent the Church hierarchy ... The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) would like to make a moral stand [regarding gambling]."

The bishop was accompanied by members of civic organizations and by the local tourism community.

Ramon Acebes, a local official of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, said the scouts oppose STL because it runs counter to their principles of self-reliance and dignity.

City records showed that state lotteries already a major political issue for Baguio in 1990 due to opposition from religious organizations.

When the city began restoration efforts in 1991 following the July 16, 1990 killer earthquake, the council passed an antigambling resolution, which a retooled task force proposals for the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's (PCSO) STL or a state-run casino operated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) are turned down.

Technically, the resolution has been superseded by an ordinance that permitted the operations of government-run bingo games.

But evangelists slammed the antigambling policy.

Angelito Tangonan, a local pastor, presented the council a report that "gambling [money] has a bigger social cost that could be more expensive for government.

He said case studies of gaming cities in the United States, such as Reno or Las Vegas, reveal a sudden increase in psychological and social problems like debilitating mental addiction and family breakup.

Dangerous reminded the council that the clergy represents the kind of voice it needs to hear. Hizzeer Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NOTICE TO MAYNILAD WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC
FCDA for 3rd Quarter 2008

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Board Resolution No. 2008-115 dated June 17, 2008, grants Mayniland Water a **Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) for the 3rd Quarter 2008 equivalent to –1.72% of the Average Basic Charge of P23.40 per cubic meter or –P 0.40 per cubic meter.** This adjustment takes effect fifteen (15) days after publication.

Due to the depreciation of the peso, the FCDA per cubic meter amounting to –P0.62 in the previous quarter is adjusted to –P0.40 for the 3rd Quarter 2008, resulting in a net adjustment of P0.22 per cubic meter.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism granted to Mayniland to recover or compensate for fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates. Mayniland pays foreign exchange denominated Concession Fees to the MWSS, as well as loans taken for service improvement projects. The FCDA mechanism is based on the principle of "recover or no under recovery".

Mayniland's concession area covers the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres & Sta Ana), Quezon (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Ave. the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit & Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon *all in Metro Manila*; Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, *all in Cavite Province.*

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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Lito Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmerano

Villagers live with dying Laguna de Bay

By Nina Catherine Calleja
Bifian, Laguna

DARK GRAY WATER RUNS RED IN THE BINAN River, where many residents of Barangay Malaban in Biñan town in Laguna dump their wastes, passing through a narrow canal and into the Laguna de Bay.

The villagers are no longer bothered by the terrible smell. "They have gotten used to it" through the years, according to fisherman Melchiades "Ka Mong" Gutierrez, president of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils (FARMC) in Biñan.

Malaban, a fishing village two kilometers from the town proper, lies along the Laguna de Bay.

One of the lake's 21 major and heavily polluted tributaries, the Biñan River has been the receptacle of household and industrial wastes in crowded cities and municipalities of the province.

Like other waterways have high levels of coliform and grease and deemed to their worst conditions, according to a Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) report in the last quarter of 2005. Only the Central Mon Bay has a low fecal coliform concentration.

Memories of clean lake

According to Gutierrez, pollution in the lake started when people from Sitio, the Visayas and other regions, moved into Biñan. "When I remember how many days (ago) I would bring his swine family and stay here for good," he says.

The people live in cramped dwellings, choosing to stay in the village because they benefit from the lake.

A fisherman for over 30 years now, Benito Corrales, 77, has witnessed the significant changes in the lake. He recalls how he and the other villagers would fill up a boat with lipa, ayungin, dalag, kanduli, tilapia and other fish species.

"We would sail at around 2 a.m. and overnight on would get a bountiful catch," he says. There were no restricted boundaries, the nets fed them on the fishing grounds.

The small community also used to enjoy the clean and deep water of the lake. "We used to swim and run near the lake. A foothill, for example, after being drained in the lake, was ready for cooking," Corrales says.

Laguna had only a few factories, he says.

Poor fishermen

"It is now different," says the seventy fisherman. He stopped drinking water from the lake when he began to get sick.

Now, fishermen only get tilapia and "they're lucky if they get to catch a kanduli," Gonzales says. In one day, a fisherman gets 1.5 kilos of fish or more, which is worth P300.

Gutierrez says the villagers are so poor that they must get a day job so they can feed their children.

Another fisherman, Carlos Canapp, 42, says the slow decline in fish being caught is now commonly felt. "Just early this morning, we only got five pieces of tilapia, our dinner later," he says.

Canapp's wife works part-time in a shoe factory to augment the family income. She also peddles fish catch in the public market.

Submerged mallorcas (We used to survive)," Canapp says.

Fish quality

Both Gutierrez and Corrales notice the changing quality of the fish.

"Before, the fish here were large and plump, but recently, it appears smaller," Gutierrez says. He describes a tilapia caught in the lake as "sun yolk of paper (pale and thin)."

Most fishermen agree to the findings of the LLDA study on the heavy metal contents in tilapia, dalag and pantot fish. "Sometimes, tilapia tastes like gasoline or paper," Gutierrez says.

According to a World Bank-funded study undertaken by Ana Cecilia Gil, economically developmental division chief of the LLDA, a man with a body weight of 47 kg and consuming less than one kg (0.72 kg) of fish caught in the lake per week is taking in 3.0031 mg of mercury per week.

The finding, which was released last year, notes that the highest mercury level for fish edible part was at 5.5 mg/kg.

Cecilio says the level of mercury found in the fish sample is beyond the acceptable limit of 1.6 microgram per kilograms of fish per week as set by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization in June 2003.

The finding should be treated with consideration since "eating tilapia now is like eating junior fish," he says.

BINAHI River, with household wastes floating around, is one of the polluted tributaries that make Laguna Lake a "septic tank."

LAGUNA DE BAY

FAST FACTS

LAGUNA de Bay, the country's largest lake, has a watershed area of 900 square kilometers with an average depth of 2.5 meters, but is relatively shallow.

Its watershed covers 53 cities and 88 municipalities within Metro Manila and near by provinces of Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Cavite and Quezon.

The lake is home to various plant and animal species, and its most dominant use is for fisheries. According to the Laguna Lake Development Authority, it ranked as 37,000 to 47,000 metric tons of fish raised in pens from 1986 to 2000.

Other uses for lake is also used for irrigation, transportation and power generation.

Source: Laguna Lake Development Authority, www.llda.gov.ph

Inquirer Research

But Corrales notes a similar study of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which found that the heavy metal contents of the fish sample passed acceptable standards.

Mercury, a neurotoxic substance, has a significant effect on human intelligence.

Though the LLDA has yet to determine the effects of the heavy metal content in fish to communities, Corrales says some school principals in the lakeside communities have reported that most pupils have low IQ (intelligence quotient) and difficulties in comprehension.

Who's to blame?

Laguna de Bay will be dying in a few years if pollution continues, Reginaldo Maiada, LLDA general manager, declared sometime in March.

It has become a "septic tank" because of the influx of 32,000 families along the shore whose wastes are dumped into the lake and its tributaries, he said.

Around 60 percent of the wastes come from domestic and industrial wastes. Cavite claims. All municipalities around the lake and industries which dispose wastewater are contributing to the pollution, he adds.

Solid coming from fish pen and cages have also been gradually killing the lake.

But there is still hope, according to Gutierrez and fellow fishermen.

Gutierrez, who also heads the Laguna de Bay Environmental Army, says that the group's 400 members have started clean-up activities and is organizing more in the remaining 21 towns.

"We have yet to accomplish big changes in the lake because we have not kept some of our projects sustainable," he admits.

Persuading people to stop throwing their wastes into the lake and its rivers is the "hardest thing to do," Gutierrez adds.

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Organic farmer walks the talk

By Madonna T. Virola
Mati, Davao

MANY PEOPLE TALK organic but only a few walk their talk.

Alfredo Moreno has taken the challenge, which has brought him to his horizon of organic farming in remote Mati, Davao Oriental province and fellow farmers in a 3,000-square-meter diversified farm in Barangay Bapa in Mati, Davao.

He grows vegetables, root crops, fruit-bearing trees, grains, chickens, ducks, goats and carabaos—all organically—in the farm. Another 50-sqm lot is allotted to a fishpond.

Moreno, 50, does not own the property but cultivates it under the "Sanatan" (household) system. He gives three cavans of rice to the owner every harvest from his produce of 18 cavans in a 300-sqm field. If irrigation water supply is good, he harvests twice a year.

He lives in a house beside the farm.

Last year, Typhoon "Frening" ruined the irrigation then supplying water to his farm, but this did not discourage Moreno from planting. "When rice became difficult to raise because of water shortage, I ventured into mango (mang kasi) crop production," he said.

Learning by doing

He adopted what he learned about upland farming from the Department of Agriculture. He produces organic fertilizer by mixing the soil with a litter of fish-cassava acid, a kilo of fish and a kilo of brown sugar. Only a small amount of the pesticide is sprayed on the plants.

"My harvest of policy ... increased from 14 cavans to 18 cavans," Moreno said.

The farmer also learned to produce soya milk. He bought a kilo of soya beans, soaked it overnight on nine liters of water, ground, boiled and mixed it with 1/4 kilo of sugar.

"I was happy with the taste," he said, claiming he had made 96 glasses and sold one glass for P10.

Breakfast for the family consists of fresh products from the farm, like boiled banana, sweet potatoes and organic eggs. He ducks lay at least three eggs a day.

The household also feasts on "pinakbet," a mix of vegetables cooked in fish sauce.

"We don't fear that we will run out of food because it is just here. We're self-sufficient," Moreno said. My in-laws survive on vegetables and bananas and are even able to sell the excess banana after five to six months."

His wife, Susan Dwema, also earns from a small store in front of the house. Many relatives stop over looking for produce without chemicals.

She tells one "frenjo" (bunch) of bananas for P150. "Dealers are not in this to use day," her husband said.

In March, their only daughter, Alex, graduated with a degree in Education, sustained by the farm's income.

MICENA

Left blue-collar job

Moreno took over his father's farm when he was 12 years old. He graduated with a Commerce degree, major in Marketing, in 1981 and worked as clerk-typist at Mindex Industrial Engineering Services Corp. from 1982 to 1984.

He left for Riyadh in 1992 to work as a clerk-typist. But he missed his country so he returned home in 1994 to manage the farm. "I realized that my happiness is in the farm, not in the office. If you put farming into your heart, you will be happy," he said.

Compared to renting for several hours while working in the office, he finds himself a lot healthier now. "I deeply thought about my old age. I want to fill and my brainbrains (not hearing) his world. So I got into organic farming," he said.

He worked with the provincial government as a natural engineer from 2001 to 2007 while continuously attending to his farm. He decided to shift from being a politician's backer to head a farmers' group called the Sarsanaba.

"One of my responsibilities is to know the problems of the farmers and to help find solutions to it there. So I always watch them and I have learned and my farm has become a place for organic farming. Already 13 farmers are adopting my organic method," Moreno said.

He advised people to be diligent in planting any vegetables. "If there is no land, it can be urban gardening (using recycled materials)," Edong said. He produces compost under the cover from animal waste mixed with soil and fish amino acid.

"The best to live is to work hard; if there's a vacant space, till it," he said.

To those working in the nearby export processing zone as contractual employees with a meager salary, Moreno says: "If they are only to rise, even just on Sundays, and without rest, they can manage to build organic gardens."

Loren: Right connection, firm hand

A-message p1

Tuesday. Villa was calling but Legarda cannot the calls because she was busy in the Senate.

Thursday and Friday. Manila Bureau phoned to ask Legarda to help. She asked if there was an ongoing negotiation and received there was one but there were efforts by MILF-ODN and the police.

'Get us out'

Saturday. Dalton phoned. Legarda thought Dalton sounded OK, but the latter said: "We, our phone girl go out."

Said Legarda: "So I called up some people...Dalod Tito Sen, Lady Ann Salvador, the lawyers. I don't know who I called first. Then said their main link is Misuari [Abusayaf] bangs. I've met him several times because he's Lady Ann's husband. Lady Ann's Lawyer of Moslem[s] of the Philippines). Then I called Dr. Ibrahim Ibn Gbalbi Jamiron, dean of the UP Islamic Studies Center, who was instrumental in the release of Arlyn, and others I cannot name.

"Then Legarda started asking to [want] with instructions on what to tell the kidnappers.

"I also called up Ellie Sonza Misa's Stressed Liberation Front [an unrecognized Lahanlala, captor of Arlyn, whom I called up through Jamiron, just to know the situation on the ground."

Then Legarda started talking to Jamiron

More Sports on A23 to A27

Late SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa
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Express survive Dragons, grab lead

GAME 1: TONIGHT (Smart Araneta)
4:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Air 21 Tri-Net
7:15 p.m.—Alaska vs. Coca-Cola

By Manny B. Castillo

IT WASN'T A HEROIC, BUT ARELI managed to prove its worth as the new scale leader of the Smart Florida Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Steven Thomas scored 10 of Areli's last 12 points, including two free throws with 7.5 seconds remaining, to lift the Express past the surprisingly tough Pilipinas Dragons, 91-87, and within a win of a tie for an outright semifinal berth.

"To be honest, when we went out for the game, I was expecting that we would breeze through this one," said Areli coach Bo Perasol, whose wards last eased out of a tie with Red Bull and Coca-Cola by improving to 10-6.

"With all the motivation on hand for us, I think I put so much pressure on them, instead of just letting them play," he added. "It's a lesson learned for me."

Thomas threw his weight around the paint all night, but hook-over Marquis Gaines downing the Express ahead to cling 89-87, before he forked it to a crucial offensive rebound which resulted in three free throws off Rob Wainwright.

Thomas scored all of his team-high 29 points in the final three periods and had 15 rebounds and four blocks. Homer Sy and Arsenal Santos also finished with double-double efforts of 12 points and 11 rebounds and 11 rebounds and 17 boards, respectively.

Gaines led the Dragons with 34 points but he missed three consecutive shots when the game was tied at 87.

After losing 11 times in 12 previous games by an average of 14 points, the Dragons were down with their heads up this time by giving the league-leading Express a scare.

At 4-12, Pilipinas is within another loss, or within a Sta. Lucia victory versus Idaho, Jacksonville, of having the dreaded five-for-the fourth straight tournament.

A trade Thursday management quite a long time in figure-skipping Corey Stanley out to have of a more dependable quarterback, in this case, Alex Compton, who made a comeback this time just short of being truly explosive—and meaningful.

Compton's was one of shape but still made a good account of himself. He finished with 16 points, but fired a crucial airball in the stretch.

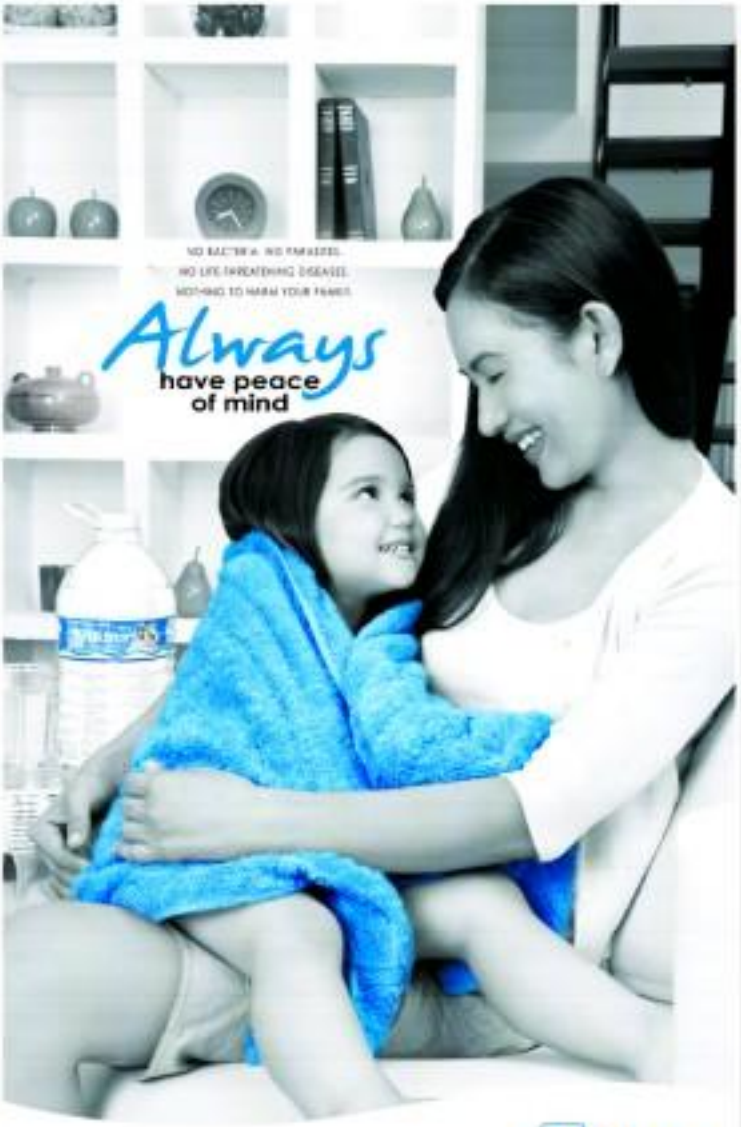
The Scores:

Final Game

AREU 91—Thomas 29, Sy 12, Santos 11, Erlandson 8, De Guzman 7, Canaleta 6, Milsom 6, Aurin 5, Dupat 3, Sabi 0.

PILIPINAS 87—Gaines 34, Lanchon 12, Yeps 12, Yanez 11, Ibanez 7, Abiera 6, Wainwright 5, Ildefonso 4, Baguio 0.

Quarters: 19-20, 38-45, 61-65, 91-87.



STAYING SAFE
FROM WATERBORNE DISEASES

Waterborne diseases are still a serious threat in our country, especially during the season of rains and floods.

These diseases can be caused by pathogenic microorganisms which are usually transmitted when contaminated drinking water is consumed. According to the World Health Organization, waterborne diseases are responsible for the deaths of 1.8 million people every year – with diarrhea the leading cause of childhood deaths.

Diarrhea is a form of bacterial infection. Other bacterial diseases are cholera, dysentery, and typhoid.

Other forms of disease that can be transmitted through water are protozoal infections like amoebiasis, parasitic infections like hydatidosis, and viral infections like Hepatitis A.

One of the more effective ways to avoid waterborne diseases is to be careful about the quality of your drinking water. It should always be stored in a cool (4-15 degrees), dark (away from sunlight) and dry (moisture free/dry) place. It should be kept away from substances like chemicals, detergents and the likes.

Of course, you should make sure your water is safe for drinking. One of the safest forms of water is distilled water like Wilkins.

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DID YOU KNOW

RIZAL High School in Pasig City made it to the Guinness World Records in 1992 for being the largest secondary school worldwide in terms of student population (more than 18,000). It held the record for years, ever surpassing the 20,000 mark.
Quirt L. Bonifacio, Inquirer Research

'Double-cross' angle hinted in slay try

But Manila mayor stands by aide's 'integrity, character'

By Marlon Ramos and Allison W. Lopez

THE ATTEMPT LAST WEEK ON THE LIFE OF RAFAELITO GARAYblon, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's executive secretary, could be the handiwork of people whom the former allegedly "double-crossed."

Lovzon Ferdinand Tejares, Binondoan Development Authority of Manila (CDA) secretary general, said in an interview earlier this week that the slay try could be the offshoot of "under the table deals" at the Manila City Hall between Garayblon and some businessmen.

MCDA, an agency created by Lim, is made up of some of the most influential Chinese-Filipino businessmen in the city, with Dante Ang, head of Commission on Overseas Filipinos, as chair.

Tejares, who said he was appointed in his post by Lim, said he learned about the supposed irregularities as City Hall when some Chinese-Filipino traders came to his office to air their concerns.

These included Garayblon, alleged involvement in the city government's controversial P400 million garbage collection project.

The businessmen also claimed that Garayblon malfeasated the conduct of the bidding for metal plates used in making business permits, Tejares added.

"As executive secretary of the mayor, the documents about these projects go directly to Garayblon. Projects will not start unless he gives his blessing," he told the Inquirer.

Asked if Lim knew about the supposed corruption in his administration, Tejares replied, "Maybe he doesn't. But now he should."

Tejares, who said he was appointed as assistant secretary when Lim took over as mayor in 2007, said he had even written the mayor about the purported irregularities at City Hall although he did not receive any reply.

"I respect Mayor Lim. He is a good and incorruptible public servant. But I suggest that he use his skills as a former police general to investigate the dealings of some of his trusted men," he said.

Lim, however, stood by Garayblon in the face of Tejares's allegations.

Garayblon, for his part, denied the reports as "nonsense" and said the city government would let the police do its job of probing the attempt on Garayblon' life.

"We cannot indulge in these speculations.

At HUNDREDS members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity held a "special edition" of their yearly Oblation Run yesterday, in celebration of the University of the Philippines' 100th Foundation Day.

'Oblation Run' steals show in UP Centennial activities

By Marlon Ramos

ON THE DAY MARKING THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines' 100th year, members of a fraternity turned in for its "Oblation Run" made sure that their presence would be felt and seen in a big way.

A hundred naked members of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity yesterday held a special edition of their yearly "Oblation Run," which they dubbed the "Centennial Run."

"This is our fraternity's way of honoring UP on its centennial," said APO member Mengzie Gloriaoblas.

Gloriaoblas, who joined APO in 1970, said the fraternity usually does a run commemorating the Centennial Run was getting 120 first-timers participate in the activity.

"We had to invite 'locals' from other schools. We had APO members from as far as UP Los Baños who joined the activity," he said.

Hit

The event was such a hit among students, faculty members and other spectators that it virtually outshone the other activities scheduled in the day-long celebration of the university's 100th Foundation Day, including the lunch-eating drive by the procession of Oblation Hall.

Apart from the usual protests, APO's activity is another way for students to voice out their concerns over issues confronting the university," said Tony Educo, UP student support and spokesperson of former the People UP.

"I'm sure Malacañang will be able to watch the run and see the overwhelming call of different sectors for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down," Educo said, referring to several classmates displayed on the campus bearing the President's face and mustache & the words "Dead GMA."

Three hours before the event, which began at around noon, a crowd of 2,000 had started to gather in front of Oblation Hall where the "streakers" were expected to emerge.

Masks

The APO members then came out, gold masks on top of white T-shirts covering their faces.

Immediately, the spectators—mostly students—screamed and trained their digital cameras, video cameras and mobile phone cameras on the young men who started touching out red icons to some of the spectators in the crowd.

Some women were too shy to receive the flowers but others were more game, even posing for pictures with the fair men.

"I'll keep this as a good remembrance of my experience here," a Concordia women building woman told her batchmates.

"I never expected it would be this exciting," she added.

Some elderly women in the crowd gleefully cheered on the barefooted runners.

"It has been quite a while since I saw something like this," a 60-year-old woman said with a laugh.

As the runners made their way to the Oblation statue in front of Quezon Hall, the UP administration building, other APO members stood as marshals, protecting the runners from the enthusiastic crowd.

Frat brother

Some members of the fraternity led by Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay showed up at the event to support their "brods."

Binay said he was proud of his fraternity's tradition which started as a prank in 1997 but has since evolved into a venue for socially-relevant slogans.

Asked if he ever took part in an Oblation Run, he replied, "No, I joined APO in 1980, way before the streakers. But I would love to."

The runners also stopped in Palma Hall before gathering at Quezon Hall, the UP administration building. They posed for photographers, sang the fraternity hymn and then left on board several vehicles.

Prank

Gloriaoblas said the APO ran was actually patterned after streakers in Hollywood. "We wanted it as a prank when the Marcos dictatorship did not allow the showing of the play 'Hubad sa Reyna' which starred Robert Arevalo and myself," he said.

Five members of the fraternity that sponsored the play—a political satire on then President Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship—ran in campus with nothing but condo on.

"What used to be illegal and clandestine is now a much-awaited 'lit' event," he added.

In 2005, the second run was scanned by the presence of two male women who grabbed the attention from the male streakers.

APO said they "felt insulted" by the incident, saying they do not allow women to join in the activity.

In 2000, concern called for the resignation of then President Joseph Estrada, now one of Binay's closest friends and a political ally.

Clinic staff in liposuction patient's death released

By Marlon Ramos

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE released three doctors and three nurses who were having lunch inside clinic after their patient died on the operating table in a clinic in Libis, Quezon City, on Monday.

Anesthesiologist Dr. Helene Ishida Tan, cosmetic surgeon Dr. Peregrino Lorenzo Ali, assistant surgeon Dr. Joel Unson, nurse aides Joey Bandanez, Hosana Fontanilla and Hannah Melissa Cuevas were allowed to go home Tuesday afternoon, according to Supt. Franklin Mateo Mabuyag.

Mabuyag, chief of the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU), said the suspects were released from the QCPD-CIDU jail to Camp Karingal, Quezon City after they answered inquest proceedings in connection with the charge of homicide resulting from reckless imprudence filed against them.

He added that the Quezon City prosecutor's office ordered the six released "for further investigation."

The patient, Mary Joan Arriola, 30, who had just come home from Dubai, died while undergoing liposuction at the Sturvigh Medical Care facility located at the Sturvigh Sub Station Qubao Mall building, Eastwood City in Barangay Bagumbayan.

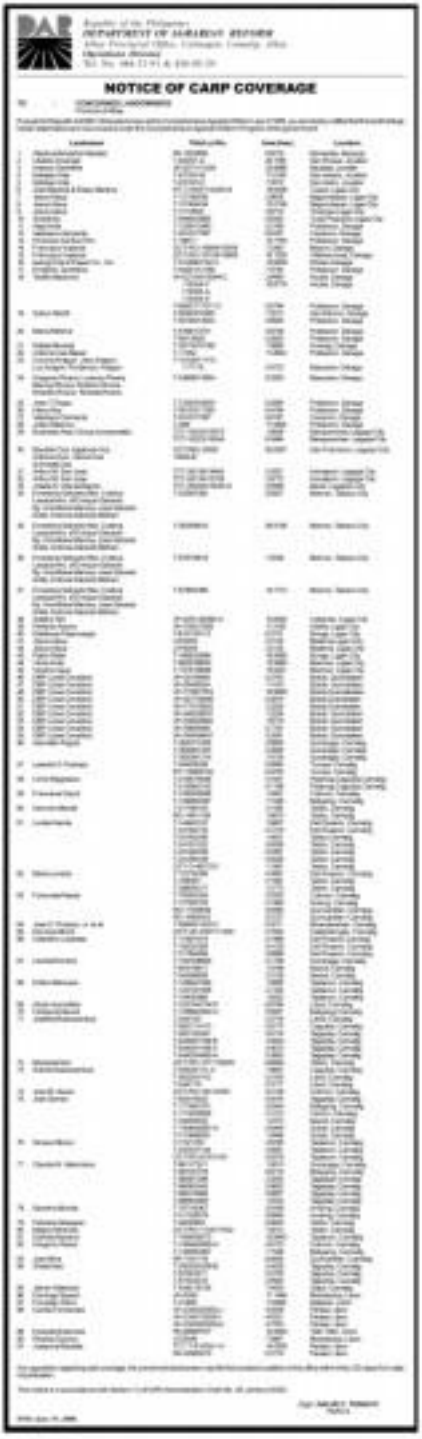
"We are still awaiting for the result of the histopathological exam done on the victim. Only then we can ascertain the actual participation of the suspects," Mabuyag told the business.

Relatives of the victim, meanwhile, expressed concern over the possibility that the accused might leave the country.

"We put our complaint trust in Superintendent Mabuyag and those investigating the incident. We're hoping nothing will come up to jeopardize the police investigation," Adelaida Fontanos, the victim's aunt, told reporters.

Emily Mateo, the clinic's legal counsel, said they were willing to cooperate with the police probers. He maintained that their staff was "innocent of the charges until proven otherwise."

"We also want to assert on the trade behind her death. We want to know if our personnel were really liable for anything," he said.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

NOTICE OF CARP COVERAGE

No clues yet on bank robbers' identities

By DJ Yap

THE MAKATI CITY POLICE ARE STILL at a loss for clues to Tuesday's P527 million bank robbery that resulted in the death of two men who shot it out with responding law enforcers.

Despite attempts to track down at least four to six others who escaped with the loot, the police have not yet established their identities, said Supt. Manuel Suzon Jr., chief of the Makati police criminal investigation division.

Authorities have started looking for the men in hospitals and clinics in Las Piñas City and Pasay province following reports that some were wounded in a shootout with police on Gil Puyat Avenue and could have been brought there. A database, however, revealed that the wounded patients in these hospitals were instead involved in other incidents, Suzon said.

Two of the robbers, Eric Pacaroz and Antonio Perez Antequio Jr., died in the gunfight.

Cecilia Balagot and Robert Tana, finance officers of a construction firm, were on their way to deposit two envelopes bloated with cash, grabbed the money they just withdrew from a Mitsubishi on Ilaw Street and took off.

Policemen on patrol duty chanced upon the scene and confronted the robbers who reacted by their guns, resulting in a gunfight, Suzon said.

METROBRIEFS

Cop charged

A PO1 RUBMAN was charged yesterday in the Manila Regional Trial Court after he allegedly killed a teenager and injured two others when he lost control of shooting a video in San Andres Bukid, Manila, last September. Assistant city prosecutor Evelyn Bulut-Cruz ordered the filing of homicide, attempted murder and illegal discharge of firearm charges against PO1 Aaron Tuway Fernandez for the death of Bernardo Dumlao Jr., 15, and child abuse charges for the wounding of the two other minors. Dumlao and the two companions were accused of stealing a bike and were beaten up by Tuway and Jose Pido, a barangay watchman, who was also charged with homicide. Dumlao later died from head injuries.

Alison M. Lopez

PDA officers oath-taking

THE NEW officers of the Philippine Dental Association Pasay Paranaque Taguig chapter (PDA-PPTC) will be installed on June 27 at the Town Square Hotel Suites Function Building, Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The event, which will run from 1 to 6 p.m., will also feature the group's first Assembly Seminar titled "Smile to Style," plus a fashion and hands-on workshop. The new officers will be led by president-elect Dr. Maria Christine Tolentino-Valerio. For more information, please call 6384420, 0919-6488883 or e-mail bach.marsero@yahoo.com.

Teenage mother throws out baby from taxicab window

By Tess S. Santos

BABIES HAVE HOUSE ARREST A MEMbers baby girl was allegedly thrown out of the window of a condominium unit in Binondo, Manila, Tuesday morning, another newborn baby girl was seriously injured after she was allegedly dropped from a taxi cab by her teenage mother in Paco.

The baby's 15-year-old mother, a resident of Binondo, Manila, is facing Andrew Building for kidnapping and attempted child abuse charges, police said.

An investigation showed that the incident happened at around 4 p.m. at the corner of Pedro Gil and Dakota Streets in Paco.

The suspect was reportedly on board a taxi, along with two other relatives, when the suddenly threw her baby out of the window.

Cristino Quilimore, a taxi owner, said she saw the baby falling from a passing taxi. She immediately took it to a nearby lying-in clinic.

Dra. Irene Diaz, a midwife supervisor of Lying-in Clinic in Paco, said the baby sustained slight except for some bruises on the body.

From the clinic, Diaz turned the baby over to the Oroquieta Mendiola and reported the incident to the social welfare department.

Don't blame ABS-CBN if it paid ransom

WHETHER OR NOT ABS-CBN PAID ransom for Cat Dilon and her two companions no longer matters.

What is important is that Dilon and companions were released unharmed by their kidnappers.

ABS-CBN should not be faulted for paying ransom...if it did...despite its avowed policy of not giving in to ransom demands of the abductors.

The biggest broadcast network had to give in to ransoms, much like other big business ransoms for their kidnapped children.

* * *

The argument by "no ransom" advocates is that paying up—if ABS-CBN did pay ransom...for the release of Cat and company) would set a precedent for future kidnappings.

But isn't it ABS-CBN's job to protect the lives of its hapless or kindly outsiders?

It's now the task of the government to go after the kidnappers and hale them to court.

* * *

If ABS-CBN paid ransom for Cat, cameraman Jimmy Encinarion and Fred Cornero Dimapis, it would not be the first time it did to liberate talents for the release of its reporters.

A couple of years ago, it paid P7 million to the kidnappers of reporter Mona Magsaysay and her cameraman.

Of the network hadn't paid off Manny abductors and they killed her, her colleagues in the news bureau and in other divisions would have abandoned the network.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

A business concern cannot expect loyalty from its employees if it is not after their welfare and safety.

Loyalty is a two-way street.

ABS-CBN said the best thing under the circumstances, even if it lost face by resorting to "strictly ex-tra-ransom" stand.

* * *

President Gloria is trying to court the sympathy of the masses by giving subsidies to poor families in these critical times.

But what can the masses do when she eventually loses many court suits after the steps down in 2010?

The poor people, who compose the majority of the population, couldn't do anything when their idol, former President Erap, was ousted from power by the middle class, the intelligentsia and the elite, and eventually charged in court for plunder.

Madame President, are you really sincere in your love for the poor and are you truly concerned about their welfare?

* * *

One person I know who was sincere in his love for the poor was my lawyer and friend, Tomas del Castillo, who passed away five years ago.

Del Castillo, a topnotch lawyer this last time in the bayanan's legal counsel, defended poor people who had no appropriate legal services who were later charged in court.

My defunct public service during "Inuubing na Ang Talo," relieved many of these cases on time.

We gave free legal services to the people and defended them in court.

I understand my lawyer friend is now defending poor litigants.

Tom had a full schedule attending to the libel suits filed against Jo [illegible] columnists, film writers and reporters among many other suits.

His answer: "Men, every lawyer should give free service. There's legal services to the law firm[illegible] their own initiative."

Tom said it was a lawyer's way of sharing his blessings for being in a noble profession.

That's real love for the poor and less fortunate!

* * *

The President's grant of subsidies to the poor insults our country's dignity because it places them in the same category as beggars asking for alms.

Madame President, the best way to help the poor is to put a stop to the entrenched billings that unduly victimize the poor and punish members of the police and military who oppress the poor.

'Double-cross' angle hinted ...

From page A11

We still let the Quezon City police do their work because they are the principal investigators of this outburst. We will just play a supporting role because we are also interested in finding out who are the masterminds who commissioned these people to kill Secretary Gonzalez," he told the business reporter.

On June 12, motorcycle-riding men opened fire on Gonzalez' car as it was traversing on Quezon Avenue at around 7:30 p.m.

His companion, among them his 27-year-old son Paulo, managed to retaliate but still fell one of the gunmen.

Two other people were wounded in the attack while one of the gunmen, later identified as Christopher Abacab, was killed by the civilian's bodyguards.

Lim defended his longtime lawyer-friend for his "integrity and character" and said Gonzalez could not be involved in irregularities.

"He is a stickler for what the law is and he complying with existing regulations. You cannot make him change his mind once he has decided, because he will stand by what is the rule of law," he added.

Lim, however, stressed that anyone who has knowledge about questionable transactions should come out in the open and back it up with evidence.

"My policy there is I will not make any statement unless it is supported by facts. If someone knows something, we will pursue it," he said.

Meanwhile, in an open letter posted at the City Hall website, Gonzalez' son said solidarity movement in the country. He said the rallies about his father were "just over."

"Instead of escalating and honoring the dedication, integrity and sacrifices of people like my father, these people are trying to destroy him. My father will not back down and I hope the people who believe in him will not lose faith in him," He said.

He thanked those who have expressed support for his father, even the people behind the duty although saying the incident has given them a "stronger resolve."

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

63 killed in Iraq car bombing

ANOTHER BOMBING
Police inspect the remains of a vehicle used in a bomb attack in Baquba, 60 km northeast of Baghdad, June 17. A parked car bomb which exploded outside the police headquarters in Baquba killed a police officer and wounded 28 other people, including 18 policemen, police said. REUTERS

BAGHDAD—A SHIITE MILITANT "SPECIAL group" is believed responsible for the deadly car bombing in a Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad, a US spokesperson said on Wednesday. He said the aim was to reignite sectarian violence that swept the neighborhood 18 months ago.

Iraqi officials said the death toll from the Tuesday blast in Hurriyah had risen to 63, including women and children. The Iraqi government and the hostile attack would soften its resolve "to defeat the terrorists and to maintain the security achievements."

No group claimed responsibility for the blast, which occurred about 5:40 p.m. Tuesday on a bustling commercial street in Hurriyah, scene of some of the bloodiest sectarian slaughter in 2006. That led to speculation Sunni extremists may have been behind the attack.

But US spokesperson Lt. Col. Steven Stover said the command did not believe al-Qaida in Iraq was behind the attack based on the type of vehicle and explosives used.

Instead, he said the command believed the attack was carried out by a Shiite special group led by Hayder Mehdi Ghulam al-Jnaidi, whom Stover described as a "murderous thug" attempting to incite violence "for his individual profit and gain."

US and Iraqi forces have been searching for al-Jnaidi for months, and his photo is displayed on checkpoints in the area.

"We believe he ordered the attack to incite (Shiite) violence against Sunnis, that his move was to disrupt Sunni reconciliation in Hurriyah in order to maintain extortion of real estate rental income to support his nefarious activities," Stover said in an e-mail.

Several Iraqi police officials said the casualty toll stood at 63 dead and 79 wounded. They spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to release the information. Stover gave a figure of 27 dead and 40 wounded. AP

Israel, Hamas OK Gaza ceasefire

GAZA—AN EGYPTIAN-BROkered ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip that could ease a crippling Israeli blockade of the coastal territory will begin on Thursday, Egypt and Hamas said.

The announcement of the ceasefire came on a day when Israel killed six militants in an airstrike in Gaza. The ceasefire aims to end rocket and mortar bomb attacks on Israel from the coastal enclave and Israeli raids and air strikes in the territory.

"Both sides have pledged to halt all hostilities and all military activities against each other," Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hossam Zaki said in Cairo Tuesday after weeks of separate talks with Israel and Hamas.

Khaled Meshaal, leader of the Islamist group, said a lasting truce would be good for 1.5 million Palestinians who have suffered from the blockade, but warned Israel that any violations of the deal would not go unanswered by Hamas.

"If you go back, we go back. The resistance factions are not in a weak position, they are in a strong position ... We are a people with a cause and we will not be beaten by aggression or invasion," Meshaal told Reuters during a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Confirming details provided to Reuters by a Palestinian official in Gaza on Tuesday, Zaki said the truce would go into effect at 6 a.m. on Thursday.

Hamas leader in Gaza Mahmoud al-Zahar told a news conference in Gaza City that the truce was intended to last six months. Reuters

McCain, Obama battle on issue of handling terrorism

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICAN John McCain's camp accused Democratic presidential rival Barack Obama on Tuesday of being weak on terrorism, drawing a sharp rebuke from Obama on the politically charged issue of how to deal with Islamic extremists.

In an exchange reminiscent of the 2004 US presidential campaign, McCain's advisers pounced on Obama for saying terrorist suspects could be treated as criminals "within the constraints of the Constitution."

They said his comments reflected a dangerous failure to understand the threat posed by terrorism.

"We have seen that Senator Obama is a perfect manifestation of a September 10th mindset," McCain adviser Randy Scheunemann said. The comment echoed Karl Rove, the former political adviser to President George W. Bush, who in 2006 accused Democrats of a "pre-9/11" mindset.

"He brings the attitude, the failures of judgment, the weakness and the misunderstanding of the nature of our adversaries," Scheunemann said.

The Illinois senator quickly fired back, saying Republicans had little standing to criticize him on the issue.

"These are the same guys who helped engineer the destruction of the war to Iraq at a time when we could have pinned closer the people who actually committed 9/11," Obama said on his campaign plane.

"What they're trying to do is to do what they've done every election cycle, which is to use terrorism as a club to make the American people afraid," Obama said.

McCain and Obama will face off in November's presidential election. McCain, a former Navy pilot and Vietnam prisoner of war, has stressed national security and cited in point Obama as too inexperienced to be trusted as commander-in-chief.

In the 2004 campaign, Bush questioned Democrat John Kerry's approach to battling terrorism and accused him of being soft on the issue because he said he would treat terrorists as regular criminals.

Obama set off the exchange in an ABC News interview on Monday night, when he contrasted the unlimited detention of Guantanamo Bay detainees with the criminal prosecutions of the 1993 World Trade Center bombers. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Fuel aid for EU fishermen

VIENNA—Member states seven EU countries called on Tuesday for sharply higher state aid for fishermen hit by soaring fuel prices that are stoking resistance to green efforts across the globe. The proposals from ministers from France, Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Malta are part of a package of measures to help fishermen which will be sent to a full meeting of EU agriculture ministers next week. Protests by truckers, fishermen and other groups particularly vulnerable to rising energy costs have disrupt parts of countries from Spain to India and South Korea in recent weeks. Reuters

Fidel Castro appears on video

HAVANA—Cuban leader Fidel Castro appeared in a video broadcast on state television late Tuesday, the first images released of the convalescing former president since January 'Castro, 81, looked thin but animated as he spoke in a garden with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his brother, Cuban President Raul Castro. In the three-minute video Fidel Castro, wearing a red, white and blue track suit with Cuban flags, also talks to the private secretary Carlos Valenciaga, though Castro's words could not be heard. AFP

Sarkozy overhauls military

PARIS—President Nicolas Sarkozy announced an overhaul of France's military on Tuesday to create a smaller and more mobile army, committing Paris to closer ties with NATO and a stronger European defense policy. Outlining France's strategic defense priorities for the next 15 years, Sarkozy said the military must put more emphasis on security within France's borders and adapt to modern challenges from terrorism to computer attacks. To free up funds to modernize its ranks, France would slash 54,000 mostly administrative and support posts over the coming seven years, leaving a force of 225,000 including civilians. Reuters

Peru police hostages freed

LIMA—Peruvian protesters freed 48 police officers from captivity on Tuesday but the government was still struggling to end a week-long blockade over mining taxes as workers said on a strike at a second copper mine. Residents of Moquegua province have occupied roads, including the main highway to Chile, and several locations in the smaller and Cuajone mine of Southern Copper Corp., Peru's top export producer. In demonstrations their protests involve a bigger share of taxes paid by the company. Reuters

4 men charged in Russian journalist's slay

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN INVESTIGATORS said on Wednesday they had filed formal charges against four men after completing an investigation into the 2006 killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

The Investigative Committee, which investigates such crimes, said in a statement it charged three men with involvement in the murder and an officer of the federal Security Service, or FSB, with abuse of office.

FSB Lt. Col. Pavel Ryaguzov and the other suspects were arrested in August and have been held in custody since then on suspicion of being linked to the murder. Officials have said previously that Ryaguzov was suspected of giving Politkovskaya's killers her address.

One of the three other suspects, Sergei Khadzhikurbanov, is a former police officer. The two others, brothers Dzhabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov, come from Chechnya. AP

Gays rush to wed across California

LOS ANGELES—GAY AND LESBIAN COUples rushed for marriage licenses across California on Tuesday, one day after the first legally recognized same-sex weddings in the state.

While a handful of symbolic same-sex marriages took place in Los Angeles and San Francisco late Monday, licenses were not widely available in most cities and licenses anxious to tie the knot until the next day.

County courthouses and clerks offices throughout California began issuing licenses from 8 a.m., and in Los Angeles many came to the early hours queued overnight to beat the crush.

"We thought it was important to be part of such a historic event," said Bernd Miller, who began living up to Los Angeles last Monday with his partner Chelsea Thompson. "It's a pretty monumental day. It's changing history."

Analysts estimate that around 51,000 of the 162,000 same-sex couples living in California will wed over the next three years, with a further 67,000 couples from outside the state expected to marry during the same period. AFP

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To be published on **July 23**, the **Inquirer's Call Center Supplement** will feature the country's **top industry players** as well as **suppliers, merchants** and **establishments** catering to the **needs of Call Centers and Call Center agents.**

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Sources: Nielsen Media Index, Q1 2008, All People 10+, National Urban Philippines and Synovate's Nationwide Urban Media Atlas Survey, January to December 2007

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RTS

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WITH a scoreless rout of the LA Lakers, the Boston Celtics finally put an end to a 22-year wait for a trophy celebration.

COMMENTARY

A dream season turns into a nightmare

By Steve Dilbeck
Los Angeles Daily News

Celtic pride is back!

Boston shreds LA Lakers for 17th NBA crown

BOSTON—IT'S THE REASON PAUL PIERCE STUCK around when the losses mounted and the end was far from clear. The reason Ray Allen was acquired in a draft-day consolation prize. And the reason Kevin Garnett agreed to leave the only pro team he'd ever known.

The Big Three has won the Big One.

The Boston Celtics rode their dream All-Stars to their 17th championship on Tuesday night, blowing by the Los Angeles Lakers with a stunning show of second-quarter scoring to win 131-92 in Game 6 of the NBA finals.

Pierce, the finals MVP, had 17 points and 10 rebounds in the clinching Garnett had 26 points with 14 rebounds, and Allen removed from a red-eye flight from the coast and a jaded eye to the lane to add 20 points, including an NBA finals record-tying seven 3-pointers.

It was the first NBA title for each of them, and the first for the league's most-decorated franchise since the original Big Three of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish won No. 16 in 1986. Danny Ainge was the point guard for that team and the general manager for the one that won 66 games a season after winning 24—the biggest turnaround in NBA history.

"Where we came from a year ago, when I was at, to be here today celebrating with my teammates, putting a stamp on what a great year it was," Pierce told the jubilant fans after accepting the MVP trophy. "Everybody stuck with me throughout all the hard times. I know we didn't have a lot of great years, but you guys stuck with me, and now we bring home a championship to you."

The Celtics also joined the 1975 Golden State Warriors and the '77 Trail Blazers as the only teams to win it all a year after winning the playoffs.

It's not hard to see why.

Last year's team featured Pierce and a lot of young players who showed promise individually but little sign of snapping the longest championship drought in franchise history, after their legendary luck deserted them in the lottery, leaving them with a worst-case fifth pick in a two-star

[TO PAGE A24]

Last year's team featured Pierce and a lot of young players who showed promise individually but little sign of snapping the longest championship drought in franchise history, after their legendary luck deserted them in the lottery, leaving them with a worst-case fifth pick in a two-star

LOS ANGELES—GUILT A WONDROUS SUBJECT, blighted by such a horrible smiling.

So many marvelous moments, now scarred by a ghastly finale.

It may be difficult for the Lakers to feel good about much of anything after that wholly embarrassing 131-92 Game 6 loss in Boston on Tuesday night that left the Celtics NBA champions.

They'll have to try now, of course. Have to work hard for a while to flit away a performance only Sabrador Dali could love, that stamped their last game of the season.

Because there is no other way to describe Tuesday's effort short of over-the-eyes uninteresting. In the biggest game of the season, they didn't even put up a fight.

They looked like a broken team. Looked

A SPECIAL A-31

AFTER going side-by-side for most of their careers, the Boston Big Three of (from left) Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce finally have a trophy to call their own.

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DOTTIE ARDINA strikes a tee shot at the Women's Golf Association National Amateur Championship in Georgia.

Top qualifier Ardina, 3 others enter match play

DOTTIE ARDINA SUSTained her awesome form with a four-under-par 68 to win low medal honors in the 18-hole stroke play qualifier of the 105th WWGA (Western Women's Golf Association) National Amateur Championship at the Ronan-Jaycee Golf Club's Concession course in Newnan, Georgia Tuesday.

Ardina, a semifinalist here last year, came out of the two-hour weather delay with just birdie, bringing three straight birdies en route to a 34-34 card and a two-day total of 138.

She will be the top seed among the 64 players, including four other RP bets, who advanced to the match play phase starting Wednesday.

Ardina finished three strokes clear of Callie Nelson, who recorded the 6172-blanked Jodi's 6th to finish No. 2 at 141 while Candace Schlapposhi took third spot at 142 after a 72.

Louise Rhoads fought hard from an opening 77 with a 71 to place 10th while reigning RP Ladies Open champion and Subic Amateur Open winner Debbie Yu Ho also carded a 71 to end up in 45th place with a 151-146.

Cyna Rodriguez, who captured the International Open in Malaysia recently, became the fourth Filipino qualifier by taking the 56th slot with a 156 after a 74.

Failing to advance were Beatrice Jola Tiu, 159-157); Mae Flores (74-85) and Sarah Alcuba (77-162).

Back to back RP amateur champion Joey Tequince struggled with a 77 for a 156 and finished tied for 64th with first timers. They will dispute the last spot in a playoff Wednesday.

The winner of the playoff will face Ardina, who is now a strong title favorite with her form in the qualifier.

The 18-year-old Ardina, who won the WWGA titled National Junior Championship in Ohio last year, matched her feat since 34 with birdies on the 14th and 18th holes.

ANGELA and Debbie Yu Vills

De Villas shine, too

In California, sisters Debbie and Angela De Villa rated the Sierra Lakes Summer Championship at the Sierra Lakes Golf Club.

Debbie topped the 15 to 16-division with rounds of 75-76 and earned an American Junior Golf Association exemption, meaning she can join other AJGA tournament she wants to.

Angela, on the other hand, looked to stay in the girls 12-14 class with rounds of 78-75.

Joseph claims swim ass'n election valid

By Cedell P. Tejos

SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT IN strutted based on incomprehensible grounds, Mark Joseph, the undisputed Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) president, somewhat said he has still to be assured to prove that his election was valid and that "the result will come out in the right time".

Joseph said the decision by the Philippine Olympic Committee recognizing his presidency had "no compromises, conditions or anything".

"In fact, there is a POC decision on the legality of my election dated July 21, 2000. It is down and there was compromise with anyone," he claimed.

The decision, Joseph continued, is to be "recommendations that we have been following and that is why Pasa is the existing NSA that it is today".

The former Olympian's entrée to Pasa presidency has been questioned by a group calling itself the "Save Pasa Movement", which is pushing for reorganization and election as part of the agreement when the POC installed Joseph as "temporary" head in 2000 after a leadership dispute with then president Simeon de Ragos.

But that Feb. 26, 2000 pact, Joseph claimed, was "revoked and repudiated by Ragos the day after signing it".

"I have all the documents to prove this," he said.

Joseph said he was voted by nine of the 12 board of directors of Pasa in September 2004.

SPORTSWATCH

New NCAAPC officials

THE PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS was elected to a second term as president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association of Private Colleges (NCAAPC) in ceremonies.

The Manila Times' Frank Lagaso and the Daily Tribune's Jaime Hamilton were named vice-presidents while the Inquirer's Cedell Tejos, Standard's Peter Alfonso and Manila's Ellie Escudero were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The group is composed of sports writers from the country's leading broadcasters and tabloids including Bulletin's Maximo Galang, Abante's Tito Talao, Philippine Star's Nonoy Espina and Bert Lozada, Tempo's Gloria Mamaril, Tonight's Jonel Ramos, Balita's Gene Ramos and Bagong Balita's Michael Aquino, among others.

Tuason School special class

TUASON EMC ENGINEERS, GRADUAtions and grandchildren a chance to live their dreams as valedictorian and salutatorian with their children graduating with a special promotional rate.

Children will be given a 0.50 percent while allowing the first year is chance to experience first-hand the feel. TUCI Turbo Diesel engines of the new Ford Ranger Diesel.

Students will learn about the performance and safety features of the new car, proper seat position, braking, cooling, basic driving tips, proper car handling and servicing the customer receives usually reserved for owners.

Promo is ongoing until June 30 but limited time only. Deadline for submissions is Friday, June 10. Interested students may call (02) 635-1111 for inquiries.

Sakurabiden, 73

VETERAN SPORTSWRITER GUILLERMO "Willie" Sakurabiden passed away Tuesday night after a lingering illness.

He left behind wife Rhoda, daughter Jennifer, sons Carlos Anthony, Willie Jr., Jason and Jose, Gulliver Anthony, children-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His body lies in state at 1581 Mariano Ponce St., Santa Mesa, Sampaloc. Mass is scheduled after 6 p.m. today at the Our Lady Perpetual Church on Aurora Blvd., Cubao.

Buncio bags third Expert leg on borrowed machine

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—DEFENDing champion Mauro Buncio of EDSER Racing ran on borrowed engine but still posted enough power to bag his third straight Expert division win in the third leg of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbike Championship Series at the Rosario Racing Circuit recently.

Buncio clocked 13 minutes and 46.165 seconds to top Rizal Mendoza of Speedeffect by seven seconds and former champion Jolet Jun of Shell Advance-Honda.

Buncio's engine ordered from Japan didn't arrive in time for the race and his first air pressure, at 70, was not suited to the race.

"I was just thankful that Rocky (Del Rosario) let me borrow the engine," said Buncio. "I just took my ranked off the previous and concentrated on the race. I'm just glad to win the Expert crown even though I finished way behind Glenn Aguilar."

Aguilar ruled the Superbikes Open class with a time of 12 minutes and 29.100 seconds, 7.870 seconds ahead of 11th year old Dhonn Ilo.

Hosting the limelight with Buncio and Aguilar in the event were crowned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Nomsa)'s own Miguel Dickson and Jayson Holigan.

Dickson topped the Masters Class at 10:46.283 to ham back Manito Tinoloco and George Gomez while Holigan ruled the Novice division over Christopher Ignacio with a time of 15:15.099.

Winning the other races were Aiko Pathroyan, who topped Junior straight wins in the Formula 400 class, and Dann de Leon, who bested George Gerrod and Rommel Alcantara for the Sub-600 title.

The afternoon races were cancelled by race officials due to severe accidents that are in doubt the track's safety.

For full results and other inquiries, interested parties may log on to www.bikingphilippines.com or contact the BRC sports/Nomsa manager Rodin Moreno at 0918-3111643 or 813-2241, 729-5365 or 635-1341 for further details.

MAICO Buncio makes his move to victory.

Thai, Chinese cage coaches here

A GROUP OF THAI AND CHINESE students flew in from Bangkok on Tuesday to join the Basketball Division and Sciences Training (Best) Center clinics and get a taste of court action in various local leagues, including the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

The students, coming from the Thai-Chinese International School in Bangkok, Thailand, are led by Sakura Aguilas, a Filipina, and coach Jaime Raja Monzel.

Against and Monzel will also observe on the conduct of the Milo-sponsored Best Centers, which is now on its 20th year as a pioneer of basketball clinics in the country.

"We choose the Best Centers because of its rich history in developing many young athletes," Valenzuela said. "We are aware of its contemporary role in Philippine basketball development and the number of basketball stars it has contributed to the various leagues."

"We are also looking toward learning and sharing technology with the Best Centers, organizing with them seven athletes who were chosen as representatives by our school," Monzel said.

The Thai-Chinese International School delegation, is comprised of players as young as 14-years old, while the oldest in the group is 15.

Excellents at the Thai-Chinese International School currently belong to elite Thai families, diplomats and expatriates.

The Thai and Chinese kids, mostly from Chinese-Taipei, will attend regular classes at the AIM gym. They had a side trip to the PBA games yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The group's visit to Manila is the second international project of Best Center founder and chairman Mc Jorge and daughter Mon Jorge's group also recently visited Thailand to train athletes and coaches using the Best Centers methods. Other projects are scheduled next month.

UST lukewarm on RP team stint

THE OPENING OF THE 2005 UAAP season is just around the corner, but it wasn't the reason I was calling UST professor Hilarion Francisco of the Physical Education Institute yesterday.

I could not turn down an urgent request for me to interview an instructor of the UST varsity lady cagers for them to have with the RP junior ladies team which is competing in the Fiba-Asia championship this November.

Since their coach Roger Tan didn't want too much on handling his players, I was requested to meet permission directly from Professor Francisco, who, I believed, is still the head of the former Tomas' physical education department.

I wondered if she still remembered me. We both had stood as primary sponsors in the wedding of photographer Tony Luis and Anthony, but that must have been at least 15 years ago.

An instructor in the UAAP, Prof. Francisco is the mother of former PBA cager Gerald Francisco, who is now assistant manager of the Coca-Cola Tigers, and Glen Francisco, who played for the UST ladies basketball squad.

* * *

At first I figured that the postal problems must be psychic. Even before I could open my mouth, she knew exactly what my mission was.

It turned out that the coaching staff of the RP junior ladies team had already spoken with Gina, who is now assistant coach of the Growling Tigers.

"One of Bebe Jumaicar's ely assistants," according to Prof. Bebelyn who later corrected me: "I am assistant director of the academe's institute of Physical Education and Athletics, Father Ernesto De Segun is the head.

Prof. Felicitas was director of the physical education department until it was converted into an institute.

She revealed that she had been due for retirement as early as five years ago, but due to technical problems demand, she kept on extending her tenure.

With her energy and effervescence, you'd never guess she is in her seventh decade.

According to the professor, her daughter Gina had already talked with Father De Segun but he seemed not inclined in lending the UST players to the national team.

* * *

"The reason the academe has been hesitant in allowing athletes to serve flag and country is because this had adversely affected their studies in the past," she said.

However, she could not explain why playing for the school did not have the same adverse effect.

"Maybe the students expend a different level of energy and focus when playing for the national team," she added.

According to the professor, this goes for all sports, not only basketball. UST students who are involved in the national team have badly in their classes. Some fail and others even drop out completely.

I sensed her that because most of the superbellas in the national team are also playing in the collegiate leagues, the RP coaching staff has made the running right and the frequency of the workouts less often. Maybe there's also a need to ease off what's not obvious.

Adamson University athletic director Paul De la Rosa and ladies head coach Emelita Inga have so graciously allowed their players to continue training with the national team. So have Ateneo Dog and Shumacks Olson, head coaches of UAAP defending champions Ateneo and University of the East, respectively.

TEU which has several players in the national team, has begged off for the duration of the UAAP promising to send back its players after the collegiate wars which is less than a month before the Fiba-Asia championship in Indonesia.

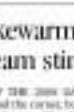
* * *

An infant son we expect from UST this UAAP season. " I asked my interviewing fellatrix.

She said she has asked the men's team the same question and was assured of its help in the coveted UAAP title defense which is bound to spell.

My interest prompted to give her last shot in persuading Father De Segun to allow the two chosen players to remain with the national team.

IN HUDDLE



Bebb Cobb

Yankees continue surge, rip Padres

NEW YORK—JASON GIAMBI HIT TWO home runs to lead the New York Yankees to their fifth successive victory, an 8-3 rout of the San Diego Padres on Tuesday.

Alex Rodriguez also homered for the Yankees, who moved a season-high five games over .500 (38-33) with their second straight dominant victory.

After a sluggish start to the season, the Yankees appear to be finding their rhythm, matching a season-high of five consecutive victories and scoring 20 runs in those five games.

"I don't want to speak too soon, but we're taking good swings and we're pitching well," Giambi told reporters.

Wilfredo Rodriguez (striking out Jorge Posada) is pitching to up behind me. It definitely feels like we're really starting to get it together."

New York has seen seven of 11 games and had little difficulty with the chippy Padres, who dipped 1-0 games under .500 and did not help their cause by making three errors.

Andy Pettitte (7-5) allowed just five hits in seven shut-out innings, striking out nine and walking one, and earned praise from manager Joe Girardi.

"Any time Andy takes the mound, we expect a quality performance," Girardi said. "We've used to seeing it. That's how you get to 14 fourth all-time on the Yankees list (Ron Guidry), and he's even took a three-run subtraction."

Pettitte says pleased to have been given a (7-5 lead).

"With our offense, you don't have to throw right shutout innings," Pettitte said. Reuters

Hard but fulfilling buildup for Go, Rivero

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TRAINING IS HARD BUT FULFILLING.

They sess how taekwondo star Toluenian Go described the rigorous preparation he and Mary Anne-Anette Rivero are going through in Seoul in their two-month buildup for the coming Olympic Games in Beijing.

Go and Rivero are enrolled in a training camp where Olympic host Seoul other countries—including powerhouse Korea—are currently learning their skills. The Olympic host wants three golds, seven then a week.

"The old people will compete in the Olympics are here," said Go in a message recently. "There are also Koreans who are in their national team."

Go, who is fighting in the 58-kg division, said the two-month training is very rigorous but at the same time very fulfilling.

"It's very hard but we can do it," added Go, who is among the Pinoys (-68kg) will train in Seoul until July 19.

Their training under the controlled eyes of Korean coach Kim Chang Hong Shik, consists of three sessions every day from Monday to Sunday.

They jog in the morning for stamina training before embarking in sparring and kicking in the afternoon. In the evening, they study techniques.

The 27-year-old Go, who last year snagged the bronze in the Asian Games gold medal in the 67kg featherweight division, made it to the first leg Asian stint after taking the bronze in last year's World qualifying in Manchester, England.

Rivero, 22, settled for silver in the same (68kg) in Thailand after dropping a controversial decision to a Koreanwoon last. She qualified by bagging silver in the Asian qualifying in November in Ho Chi Minh City.

KEVIN Garnett raises his hands as the clock winds down to its final seconds during the title-clinching Game Six.

A dream...

From page A-01

Overturned and lost and conversion of Garnettdom. Their eyes left Heat, and re-cast.

No small part of this is due to the Celtics, who clearly were the superior team, the tougher team, the genuine defensive team.

The Lakers never could crack Boston's heralded defense. Never really could get into anything resembling a consistent offensive flow.

The Lakers jumped out to a 6 closed Tuesday, and then ended last period.

They trailed by four after the first period, 22-6 at the half, and by 20 at once the rest of the win. Championship basketball left drift cash to vanish, unless you had a rooting interest in green.

"We're disappointed, we have no disappointed," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson. "We didn't give ourselves a chance."

The Celtics knew by the middle of the third quarter they had seven second 17th NBA title. Know the Lakers had nothing left to give they could not answer.

So convincing was the victory, the Celtics and Lakers will now consist of 10:00 a game one entire fourth quarter celebrating. Tasting champagne will not be prohibited. The crowd started chanting "Give us wine" less than halfway into the third quarter.

They Lakers shot poorly, rebounded worse, handled the ball like it was chess ball to all.

They were beaten to loose balls and long rebounds. Outthought, outhustled, outbullied. They did not block a single shot.

A season that should be celebrated was left unforgiven, left with national criticism and more questions than the full body of work deserved.

Even Kobe Bryant, the season's MVP, was left wounded, taking at the game's greatest shots in one quarter of The competition with Michael Jordan suddenly unfavorable.

Kobe was left looking very dazed. He hit four of his first five shots, but just three of his last 17. He added four turnovers, three rebounds and no assist. He was seldom the series' dominant player.

The Boston five had a sign that read, "Kobe You Can't Do Jack Without Shaq," a painful reminder that Shaquille O'Neal earned a fourth NBA title without him, while Kobe was left still searching for his next without Shaq.

"Best three-way on Kobe, and we didn't have other guys step up," Jackson said.

Lamar Odom and Pau Gasol, subsequent played to swell in Sunday's Game 5 Lakers' victory, were scarce in visible Tuesday.

The highlights all came from the Celtics. Kevin Garnett pounding his chest. MVP Paul Pierce screaming into the rafters.

In the fourth quarter, a TV camera caught owner Andrew Bynum sitting a row behind a dejected Kobe on the bench.

When the game left the confines of the Lakers, when time allows some distance to mount perhaps Tuesday night, that is when the Lakers will learn. AFP News Service

Boston teaches LA basketball lesson

BOSTON—THIS ONE WILL STING ALL SUMMER. IT WILL STICK with the Lakers through exercises and lazy days to the sun. It will be there, in the piles of Stoli at cocktails, when they regroup for training camp and when they begin the 2008-09 season next fall.

The Boston Celtics taught the Lakers a painful lesson in championship-caliber play they will carry with them for the foreseeable future.

The Celtics' 131-92 victory in the decisive Game 6 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night was as instructive for the Lakers as it was difficult to absorb. The Celtics refused to let the game level the Lakers might could not match at the TD Banknorth Garden. Boston won the best-of-seven series four games to two.

"Now that we know what it takes to get here I'm looking forward to the journey and getting back here again," Lakers forward Lamar Odom said. "We know the identity of our team. We know what it takes to win. We didn't do it (Tuesday night)."

Indeed, the Lakers never gave themselves a chance to win Game 6.

They wasted close to a while in the first quarter, but those scrambled in sporadic fashion during a dreadful second quarter that sealed their fate.

The Lakers' opportunity to extend the series to a winner-take-all seventh game vanished amid a flurry of missed shots and turnovers in the second quarter, when Boston turned a 24-20 lead into a commanding 58-35 advantage.

The Lakers shot 22-1 percent and had five turnovers in the period, which led to 24 points for the Celtics. The Lakers' nine were outrebounded by a staggering 23-6.

"The last two minutes of the second period hurted the team extremely," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We went into the locker room of halftime and tried to get our guys back on beating and really couldn't turn the momentum around."

The Lakers' quest for the franchise's 16th championship must remain unfinished. Their run to the Finals, an unlikely link when they went gathered five training camp that Octo-

THE FINALS will be a learning experience for Kobe Bryant and the LA Lakers.

ber in Hawaii, ended two wins shy of the title. Next season, they expect to have a healthy Andrew Bynum playing between Odom and Pau Gasol, giving them a more physical and more formidable front line.

"If we're going to learn anything from this series it's that we can't expect to win a championship by leaving on the offensive end," Bryant said. "We have to learn how to hold people down (defensively). We're pretty good at it, but we can be better." New York Times News Service

Celtic pride is back!

From page A-01

death. Ainge inherited the first-rounder for Allen.

That was enough to convince Danielle to accept a trade and sign on correction, allowing Ainge to exhibit together an unprecedented Nine-O deal for the final piece in the new Big Three.

"We combined on much of what we did throughout our careers to get to this point because we've done everything we've been able to do individually, won all type of awards, but never made it to the mountaintop," Pierce said.

With the best record in the NBA during the regular season, the Celtics entered home court for the playoffs—and they needed it. They were all four games at home to the first two rounds to reach the Eastern Conference finals, then dispatched Detroit in six games before bagging title No. 17.

It means everything," Pierce said. "If I was going to be one of the best Celtics to ever play, I had to put up a fi nals."

Allen's shooting deserted him for long stretches, and before Game 5 in Los Angeles he learned that his son had been diagnosed with diabetes. Then, in the first half of Game 6, he was rushed to the locker room.

It didn't stop him from going 7-of-9 from 3-point range, piling from a record 20 3-pointers in the NBA finals.

"I was wondering what happened to Ray," Pierce said. "When Ray got back out there, I think it kind of hushed us."

A CELTICS fan cuts it at from the stands.

Raikkonen hopes to end Formula 1 dry spell

FERRARI's new members push Kimi Raikkonen's car back to the pits during the Canadian GP.

LONDON—FERRARI'S FORMULA ONE world champion Kimi Raikkonen returns to France this weekend hungrier than ever for victory after two years in a row without points.

Magny-Cours marked the turning point of the Finn's season last year and he needs another French Grand Prix win on Sunday after slipping to fourth place overall, seven points adrift of Britain's new championship leader Robert Kubica of a BMW-Sauber.

"I don't remember when I last made a great last for winning," the Finn told his team's website (www.ferrari.com).

"The last two races were a disappointment, caused by different problems," added Raikkonen, who was disabled out of the last Canadian Grand Prix by championship rival Lewis Hamilton in a pit-lane collision.

Before that, the Finn had himself stranded into the back of Adrian Sutil's Force India in the closing stages of the downpour Monaco Grand Prix while in fifth place.

"I think the things will look really different at Magny-Cours compared with the last GPs," said Raikkonen, who won on Frenzy last year.

Raikkonen had been 26 points behind McLaren's Hamilton before arriving in Magny-Cours last year, and without an opponent now on the podium for four races.

The title was followed immediately by another in Britain and by the end of the year the Ferrari driver had beaten the British rookie by a single point. Reuters

Condes-Garcia rematch slated

By Jolven Lagumbay
Contributor

NEWLY CROWNED BEFMSO FLYWEIGHT champion Raul Garcia is willing to give Filipino Thonzor Condes a title rematch later this year.

In an interview with PhilBoxing.com, Condes' manager Danny Ortiz said he was stunned by Garcia's promoter Edralin Castillo that the new champion will definitely give Condes a rematch sometime in November or early December.

However, Ortiz said Castillo wants to give Garcia a tune-up bout before facing Condes again.

"They want to savor being a champion for a while before they'll face Condes again because they know that a second fight with Condes would be more difficult," Ortiz told PhilBoxing.com.

Ortiz said Castillo both agreed that a Garcia-Condes rematch is good for the fans and the business because even with the short time that Condes was in La Paz he had captured quite a following among local boxing aficionados.

"Condes is now very popular in La Paz," Ortiz said. "After the split decision verdict was announced and while we were walking from the ring to the dugout, which was a long walk, Condes was loudly applauded by the audience shouting 'Thonzor, Pinoy!' (Just ing mo ma'ko walk."

Ortiz attributed the long layoff to the reason for Condes' loss to Garcia and he, together with promoter Sonny Soliveres, plans to also give Condes one or two fights before taking on Garcia again.

"I have not lost my faith in Thonzor. With proper guidance, and before anything, he will capture the title again," Ortiz concluded.

FLOAWAYS Condes will have a chance to get his belt back. PHOTO

HE'S ON IX Alex Compton was to his net son as an import in the PBA, taking up for the Walnut Dragers...where he is an assistant coach—against the Ark 21 Express last night. Story on Late Sports, page 4-14. CHINO MANSO

Canlubang, Wack Wack share Fed League lead

CANLUBANG AND WACK WACK RAISED an extra point by finishing their respective rivals at home over the weekend to leap ahead in Group 1 even as Forbes Combined the upper hand in Group 3 in the 2008 Federation League matches at various venues.

Wack Wack crowed the young season's biggest win so far after a 5-0 massacre of Camp John Hay while Canlubang dealt defending champion Wood Northwoods its third straight loss with a 4-1 conquest.

Canlubang and Wack Wack, with two wins and a loss in three matches, have three points including the point incentive given to venues scoring 4 points or more per match.

Manila Southwoods and Villamor also opened their respective bids with big wins.

Southwoods fended on the 1-up victory of Timothy Pascual and Jhonny Gavierra to aggregate to defeat Valley rivals Manuel Alvite 3-2. Decisive over host Sherwood Hills following Pablo Alonso and Emil Ubiadan's 1-up triumph also in the aggregate format.

An impressive 6-1 mastery of Highlands sent Orchard skyrocketing to the top in Group 2 play with the high-low tandem of Ray Montgomery Jose Rosanda's giving the home team a big win after a draw with Valley on the operating outing.

Accounting for Orchard's other wins were Joe Gonzales Paul Schrader in greensomes, Robert Byron Rendon Mallion in fourball and Ed Alvarado-Al Garcia in aggregate.

Tom Ramos/Ronnie de Jesus (greensomes), Lee Boey-Jasper Go (fourball), Oliver Jose Mercado Ye Gocandin), Vince Ng-Ephrage Wong (high-low) and Gerry Uy-Kit Lopez (aggregate) all won their matches for Wack Wack.

Pulling off the sweep for Canlubang were the pairs of Luigi Dator Raoul Fonacier, JB Bautista-Aurelio Quiroz, Louie Guaveroa-Mauro Oliver and Phillip Brodett-Tracy Olivas.

Calatagan boys ahead in Samsung Amateur

BALAYO—JOSEPH LIAM GARDEA (-STC, one) fought even par 69 yesterday to hold on to a slim one-stroke lead over Paul Echarren in the second leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Luis and Echarren, members of the Calatagan team of Tourny Maestro coach pulled off another stellar double in the 45-lad race here last year, turned the race for the championship division title into their own showdown as the only players in the rankings, Charlie Calpotura, 10 strokes down behind.

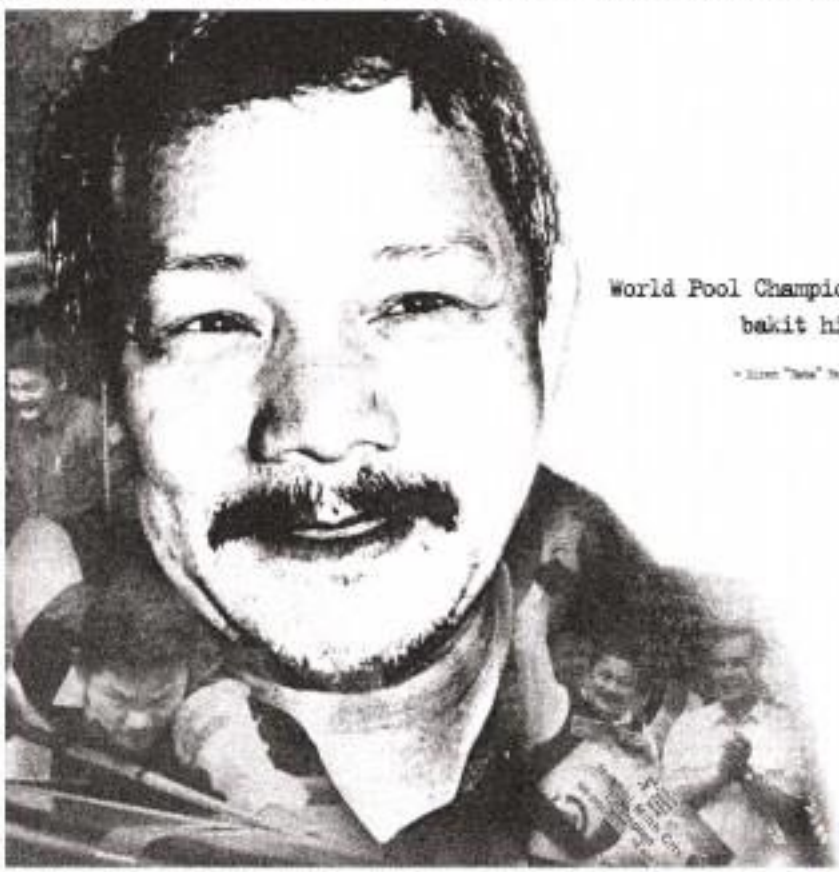
Luis's 138 total put him just a stroke ahead of Echarren, who followed up opening 73 with a 68. Hometown lad Calpotura shot a 71 to be at 149 in the event backed chiefly by Samsung Electronics Philippines Inc.

In the 36-hole competitions, Bayan Taraza captured Class C, Charles Bagallet ruled Class B and three former ladies swept the titles in their division.

Taraza broke 90 for two days with a 79 and 78 and was in a two-shot win over two doctors and Bagallet who was in the same margin with rounds of 96 and 203 for 197, beating Wilson Angkong who did 209 and 203 for 206.

Ellaraza, Sarabia, Calloway, Silva Hugh Sing, Tibiri, Centers Clubsalers, Gargol, Wise 89.1 and the newly opened The Cliffs at Thunderbird Resort Post Bakil are the other sponsors of the Samsung series. DeSports Philippines and Autobuk are making a Club Car (No. 10) and a Honda motorcycle (No. 4), respectively, for hole-in-one bids.

The three ladies division winners all measured their rivals with Lee Ji Yeon topping Class A, Lee So Min prevailing in Class B and Shin Kyoung Ja taking Class C.



FRENCH goalkeeper Gregory Coupet (front) dives as a futile attempt to save a shot launched by Italy's Andrea Pirlo.

EURO 2008

Italians advance, give French the boot

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—ITALY WAS SO SURE THAT THE NETHERLANDS would render the Azzurri's match with France meaningless by letting Romania win on Tuesday that the World Cup winners had already reserved their plane home from the European Championship.

But the intervention will have to be cancelled after Italy beat 10-man France 2-0 and the fourth-ranked Romans by the same score. The results sent Italy through to the quarterfinals and sent France home in the first bundle.

"Holland-Romania is a lesson for us Italians," Italian football federation vice president Demetrio Albertini said. "Everyone in Italy was thinking about a tie between Holland and Romania. Some of those thoughts were reflected the squad."

Albertini and Italy coach Roberto Donadoni used to play with Netherlands manager Marco van Basten at AC Milan, and Donadoni said he had always been confident the Dutch would play at their best despite having already won the group.

"I didn't have any doubts. I knew Van Basten," Donadoni said. "I know what he's made of. When they asked me to call him, it seemed useless, and disrespectful to him."

Andrea Pirlo put Italy in front at Letzigrund Stadium with a penalty in the 25th minute after Eric Abidal was sent off for a foul on Luca Toni, and Daniele De Rossi made it 2-0 with a deflected free kick in the 62nd.

Italy will next face Group D winner Spain on Sunday in Vienna, although its attempts to improve on an occasionally unconvincing performance will be hampered by the absence of key midfielders Pirlo and Gennaro Gattuso. The pair are suspended after getting their second yellow cards of the tournament.

It was Italy's first win over France without the help of a penalty shootout in 80 years, the last occasion being a 2-1 win at the 1938 World Cup.

Italy beat France in a shootout in the 2006 World Cup final and the teams also met twice in qualifying for Euro 2004. The Azzurri won 2-1 in Paris and the reverse down 0-1 in Milan.

Donadoni would have likely lost his job if Italy was eliminated.

"Yesterday I said that when I get up in the morning, I see first that sign on the pillow. Now I'm trying to see if some of it will go to lunch," Donadoni said. "But before the jokes, this has always been it's been for me. As a coach and as a player. I've always had to work hard and sweat for everything."

The Netherlands won Group C with a maximum nine points and Italy finished second with four. Romania entered with two points and France finished last with just one.

France was at a disadvantage from the seventh minute when winger Franck Ribery collapsed before being carried off with a suspect to his left leg.

That robbed France of perhaps its greatest attacking threat and Italy got the chance to take control when Toni stretched acrobatically to contact a long pass from seven minutes from the end of the first half, having Abidal last spalling him down from behind.

Abidal was sent from the field and Pirlo dispatched the kick emphatically.

"In our match it's impossible to have so many calculations on a pitch," France coach Raymond Domenech said.

Italy knew that it would go through so long as they said the Netherlands received defeat, no news of the Dutch's 3-0th minute opener against Romania sent fans wild when it reached the Letzigrund Stadium. AP

23 RP bets off for SEA age group swim event

By Cedrik F. Tupas

A 23-STRONG PHILIPPINE TEAM LEFT FOR Mahidol Wittayanusorn, Thailand, yesterday to see action in the 32nd Southeast Asian Age Group Swimming Championships from June 20-22.

The squad, manned by Jenny Obregon Philippine Swimming, will be led by former world championship campaigner Rikki Dacera and 15-year-old Jennifer Godinez, who finished fourth and fifth in the 400 and 200-meter breaststroke events of the 2007 Southeast Asian Games.

The Philippines won three golds, three silvers and four bronze medals last year to finish ninth.

Dacera will defend the host 15-17 (Jimmy Arevalo) title he received last year in Singapore. He is seeking his second straight gold in team Celine Gonzalez.

The other members of the squad are 2008 Palarong Pambansa standouts Jasmine Alkhaldi, Jacqui Borlo, Dorothy Hong, Johanson Aguilar and Kevin Esguerra, double-gold Chevrone Grace Tee, Jessie Ching Lontoc, Jose Joaquin Gonzalez, Jewel Cecilio, Kenzie Angela Lacson, Dhil Anderson Lee, Angelica Estelle Jaime, Noelle Louise Sanmiguel, Kimberly Yi, Erika Kristi Lukang, Bella Angela Cordero, Sonia Elise Sumicsic, Charlie William Walker and Valentin Bernas.

Interbeat caging enters quarterfinals

THE CRUCIAL PHASE OF THE MEDIA SPORTS LEAGUE (MSL) SENATOR FAMON "BONG" REvilla Jr. Cup semifinals, three semi-finalists, two wildcard teams, led by columnist Malou Mangahas and AFP-PRO chief in the consumer semifinals at the Dentist College of the Philippines gym. As the top team in Bracket A at the end of the single-round elimination, the Palace Boys, honored by the deadly duo of ABS-CBN's Randy Picache and PTJM's Joey Martinez, face the fifth-fourth seeded Philippine Star's Bill Velasco and Business Mirror's Joel Ordoña at the first game slated at this Saturday at 8 a.m. The second game features Team Senate (no. 3 in Bracket B) going against Business Reporters (no. 3 in Bracket B) at 10:30 a.m.

Dumaguete hosts Milo run

AFTER A THREE-MONTH BREAK, THE 22nd National Milo Marathon elimination race resumes in Dumaguete City on Sunday.

Defending champion Elmer Bertolo and Gale Gonzales are competing once against on approximate field of 5,000 and will go for a clean sheet to the Nov. 30 national finale.

A total of P250,000 in cash, trophies and medals will be raised in the elite 21K, 3K and 5K race.

The succeeding editions of the elimination phase are as follows: Bacolod City on June 29, Iloilo on July 6, Roxas on July 13, virtual tournament from legs in Metro Manila, Tarlac, Cebu and Davao on Aug. 3, Legazpi on Aug. 10, Naga on Aug. 17, San Pablo on Aug. 24, Tacloban on Aug. 31, Tagbilaran on September 7, San Fernando, La Union on Sept. 14, Laoag on Sept. 21, Santiago, Isabela on Sept. 28, Baguio on Oct. 5, Iligan on Oct. 12, Ilagan on Oct. 19, Butuan on Dec. 26 and Cagayan de Oro on Nov. 9.

This year's race began in February with the first four legs held in Malaybalay City, Puerto Princesa, Cotabato City and Tuguegarao City and General Santos City.

By the time the national finale come around, the longest running event in the country would have drawn 200,000 runners nationwide to the race.

ELMER Bertolo celebrates after topping last year's Zamboanga City race.

Budding Fil-Am star in MMA

By Jane Navarro

UNKNOWN TO MANY, THERE'S another fighter with Filipino blood on the rise in the international mixed martial arts arena other than Brandon "The Truth" Vera.

Mitch Mañol may not sound familiar but the Filipino-American from Sacramento, California, is slowly carving a niche in the World Fighting Cage (WFC) fighting organization of top MMA organizations (Ultimate Fighting Championship).

Acknowledged as the "Filipino Wrecking Machine" in MMA circles, Mañol has become a favorite among UFC officials after the 6-foot light heavyweight won his first four fights organized by a trio-based fraternal against Chuck Grigsby in three events early this season.

Mañol literally cut the 6-foot-2 Grigsby down to size just 45 seconds in the first round with a combination of wrestling and muay skills.

Grigsby, a former basketball player before trying his luck in MMA, was unfortunate in his last eight fights before Mañol threw a Brandon Vera of punches on his head that sent downChina literally unconscious on the spot.

The 33-year-old Grigsby, who suffered his fourth defeat in 23 fights, was carried out of the octagon on a stretcher before a huge crowd of roughly 15,000 at the Arco Arena on June 1.

"I didn't expect the crowd. I knew it would be a lot of people. I heard down screaming my name and it was electrifying," said Mañol, a two-time All-American and 2001 NCAA wrestling champion at Oklahoma State.

It's quite understandable why the 26-year-old Mañol was overwhelmed with the situation.

Just a few years back, Mañol was quietly working on his master's degree in exercise biology to eventually get a high paying job to support wife Kristine and four children.

Then, the prodding from WEC lightweight reigning champion and close friend Urijah Faber came.

"He (Faber) told me that I have to fight in WEC because I'm really destined to be an MMA fighter," said Mañol. "He never stopped telling me that I have to fight until it finally sank in."

With his career on the rise, Mañol is preparing to move to San Diego within the month and reunite with Vera, a Filipino-Ecuadorian MMA fighter who regularly competes in the UFC.

"Mark is a division 1 champion wrestler. He's just awesome, man. I say he's going to go places," said Vera, who set-up his first night bout as a heavyweight in the UFC before losing his last two fights, including a controversial defeat against Fabricio Werdum recently in London.

Like Vera, Mañol possesses Filipino roots despite his brawny and toughness in the cage.

"Man, Mark is a family man," said Vera. "He takes care of his wife, his four kids and the whole family. He's very religious, too."

UFC lesion official Lorne Mack told the Inquirer that the WEC organization led by UFC president Dana White has signed plans for Mañol, one of the plans is to bring Mañol and Werdum a WEC and UFC fight card in the Philippines.

Tañamor, RP Team eyeing other tilts

By Cedrik F. Tupas

AFTER MISSING THE CHEMISTRY Cup in Halle, Germany, the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines is scouring for top-level tournaments that will help keep lightflyweight Mary Joanne Tañamor sharp before the Beijing Olympics in August.

"We're looking for alternative tournaments for Mary and the team," ABAP president Manny Lopez said. "But we're not that optimistic because most of the tournaments scheduled this year are done after the Olympics."

Tañamor and the rest of the seven-man Philippine representation originally set to compete in the Chemistry Cup missed their 10 a.m. KLM flight to Halle via Amsterdam yesterday as they would for their German venue which does not extend only at 3:30 p.m.

"The tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable so we are left with no choice but to skip the tournament," Lopez said.

The Chemistry Cup, which next three June 20-22, will feature boxers from Europe and the Americas.

Featherweight Queby Suson, bantamweight Orlando Tacoyan A and lightwelterweight Geoffrey Rosales were also supposed to see action in the tournament.

Tañamor, who had earlier bowed to Gilas and then won the light flyweight gold in the recent Ho Chi Minh Prime Minister's Cup in Taipei, was supposed to fight in the bantam flyweight division in the tournament.

TAÑAMOR

GO FURTHER WITH YOUR FREE FUEL!

5th Draw Winners of Shell's "Win Free Fuel and a House" Raffle Promo

METRO MANILA

Ana Loreta Banasig
Andrew Fernandez Jr.
Antonio Luciago
Arturo San Esteban
Barbara Gatchalian
Carmelito Fernandez
Dennis Barria
Edward Ezequiel
Engracio Gutierrez
Gloria De Guzman
Henry Siberio
Isidro Castro
Joel Barongo
Joey Veras
Jose Monzales Jr.
Jose Robles
Judith Martinez
Kenneth Linjoco
Lilian Cater
Mabini Corazon
Manuel Villanueva Jr.
Marissa Brausco
Marites Anastacio
Mary Grace Guinto
Maximo Bolfanda
Maximo Carrera Jr.
Michael Montuya
Nardo Tangcuangco
Raul Ceballos
Regina Ignacio
Ricardo Renacia
Rodelio Osete Jr.
Sonia Pol
Vicente Anthony Lorenzo
Virgilio Lasam

NORTH LUZON

Adelio Cabatbatan
Alvin Wisco
Amako Sanontedureagar
Archimedes David
Armando Tumampo Jr.
Carlito Sevilla
Conchacion Calleng
Danilo So
Dante Manlapaz
Darlito Agbayani
Domineador Abaya
Edwin Nabong
Efren Yangua
Elmer Gariega
Ereddo Pinion
Eufracio San Pedro
Fidel Castelo
Hannah Sy
Hayzel Cruz
Henri Sinsian
Karen Janice Ballesteros
Liarty Tuazon
Marvic Agbayani
Mary Ann Salvatera
Mary-Ann Morales
Mayo Ngowayan
Nestor Guevarra
Pepito Romanico Jr.
Peter Danga
Rosalina Ponce
Robin Pascua
Rolando Paule
Romeo Medrano
Ronnel Garnace
Ronnel Tristan Manaoil
Ruben Pagat
Sabado Roger Rimando
Valiant Conde Cruz
Victor Sevilla Jr.
Wilma Posadas

SOUTH LUZON

Alex Perer
Antonio Fernandez Jr.
Blesilda Alva Chua
Danilo Motel
Darwin Alvarez
Emmanuel Sigue
Ervong Ang
Gilbert Gutierrez
Isagani Fontanilla
Jasmin Espano
Jemalyn Santa
Jesse Abello
Jose Ambas
Josefina Gloriosa
Julieta delos Santos
Julio Maldo
Junel Enriquez
Mario Miguillas
Melchor Ramos
Michael Cabral
Michelle Mongsterrel
Poncho Morada
Rebeca Quijada
Roel Malata
Roland Jake Remindo
Romilyn Datinguinoo
Ronald Orpilla
Ronalyn Velasco
Silvestre Talagping
Vladimir Bacagan

VISAYAS

Abelardo Mian
Aileen Cabigas
Aldrin Bendon
Anecito Migrino
Arleen Vic Ochondra
Bethlehem Baguio
Elaine Euclado
Gil Gonzales
Jessielee Kakilala
Joachim Heinhold
Jocelyn Uy Po
Joel Dunato
Julius Duyogan
Jymniveth Deredia
Kenny John Chua
Kurt William Fleischer
Leonardo Naran Jr.
Michael Porras
Mildred Badon
Nonie Galutin
Oscar Melad
Perfecto Matores
Perlito Calama
Ralph Ryan Vales
Rebecca Montes
Rizalde Sy
Romelo Luspinas
Romeo Samson
Rosalie Amadore
Ruby Flordeliz

MINDANAO

Amelia Gaviola
Angelico Laberon
Benjamin Balasica Jr.
Bryan Banguisa
Conrado Bathreas
Dionesio Bontilao
Edgar Gaburnicua
Edmar Diaz
Emma Segui
Ernesto Palangin Sr.
Gay Micayabas
Genevieve Bagood
Joel Solican
Jerome Acas
Jocelyn Romoneca
Joezakie Caballero
Jovelyn Peralta
Jun Marquisos
Lino Flores
Luzviminda dela Cruz
Ma. Susan Shine Oquiño
Marcel Pozo
Mario Leyag
Menalyn Palmes
Nabor Pepito
Pablito Inoyo
Renie Dionio
Rey Candano
Roy Cardiz
Violeta Godor

Formal notification will be sent via registered mail to the winners by June 17, 2008.

makeitmove

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BUSINESS

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PETRON XCD PREMIUM
Fuel up now

Gov't posted P7-B budget surplus in May

Tan named national treasurer

TAN

AFTER SERVING IN AN ACTING capacity since April last year, Roberto Tan has been formally appointed by Malacañang as the country's 26th national treasurer.

His appointment to the Bureau of the Treasury forced him to leave his post to undersecretary for the International Finance group of the Department of Finance, which he previously held less concurrent capacity.

The was announced yesterday by Finance Secretary Margarita Teves, who said former DOF chief of staff Rosalia de Leon would serve to an acting capacity as undersecretary for international finance.

Prior to Tan's appointment, Malacañang was reportedly scouting for a new national treasurer from the private sector, particularly from the banking industry.

Finance and treasury officials said Tan's appointment was prudent given his vast background in public finance.

Tan was assigned to the Treasury, an attached agency of the DOF, following the resignation of Omar Cruz, who decided to go back in the private sector.

Prior to his appointment, Tan headed the DOF's international finance group since 2005. He handled matters related to the government's foreign borrowings, including commercial loans and official development assistance.

Michelle T. Remo

Deficit for first 5 months brought down to P18.8B

By Michelle T. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT POSTED A BUDGET SURPLUS OF P7 BILLION in May, aided by higher collection of the value-added tax due to soaring fuel prices.

Total revenues for the month reached P186.9 billion, which included fees charged by government agencies, while expenses amounted to only P98.9 billion.

The budget performance for May brought the government's fiscal position for the first five months of the year to a deficit of P18.8 billion, down from P22.6 billion as of April.

The government generated revenues of P682.4 billion from January to May and spent P901.2 billion. Revenues were up 11.5 percent year-on-year while expenditures grew 5.7 percent.

Finance Secretary Margarita Teves said the five-month budget performances still did not reflect the government's decision to substantially increase spending to help the economy cope with the ill effects of a global slowdown and rising inflation.

Teves said efforts to pump-prime the economy, including the granting of subsidies to poor families, would manifest in the coming months. Subsidies recently approved by the Arroyo administration included the one-time granting of P500 for "lifeline users," or households whose monthly consumption of electricity does not exceed 100 kilowatt-hours.

Both the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs—the two biggest revenue earners among the agencies—recorded year-on-year increase in collections for the five-month period.

The BIR collected P435.7 billion in the first five months, up 27.3 percent, while the BOC contributed P92.1 billion, higher by 22.9 % billion from that of the same period last year.

"We [government] remain focused on the attainment of our revenue goals to ensure that we have the necessary resources to fund our programmed expenditures this year, particularly in infrastructure and social services," GOVT PHOTO/B3

After 3 years, MRT-7 contract signed finally

By Riza T. Olchondra

THREE YEARS AFTER SUBMITTING an unsolicited proposal for the $1.34-billion MRT-7 project, Universal Rail Corp. (URC) yesterday signed a concession contract with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) for the mass transport system and its $2.9-billion real estate component.

About 75 percent of the project will be funded by borrowings from international financial institutions and the rest will be financed by equity.

"Financial closure [which means all investments must be in] is one year from now. Construction will take place between January 2009 and July 2013. The financial closure may be completed ahead of time, so the project may be finished early because there have been many detailed talks with potential investors," ULC managing director and CEO Eli Levin told reporters after the signing.

Levin said the contract was a turning point for the project because investors would now be encouraged to firm up their commitments.

Within the last year, negotiations stalled after the government asked ULC to place an additional bond of $250 million over three years for the real estate component on top of a $120.5-million performance bond.

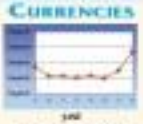
ULC protested that the very financial conditions were too stiff and could scare investors off.

At that time, the proposed project was already offered for a Swiss Challenge in accordance with the Build-Operate-Transfer Law and some of the expected challengers—Sumitomo Corp., World Citi Finance Group and Korea Consortium—submitted no offer.

ULC eventually managed to draw more investors in, including the SM Investments group, and soon entered the Zobel's group of companies.

"The Zobrera group signed up as a major investor for the undertaking and the real estate component last June 16," Levin said.

CURRENCIES



1 USD
PHILIPPINE DOLLAR RATE
₱ 43.65 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2008

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(For more statistics, see Page B2)

Shares close 0.3% lower

PSE-SEC PRICE CLOSED DOWN 0.3 PERCENT yesterday as a rise in the jobless rate added to worries about the slowing economy, dealers said.

The composite index lost 8.08 points to 2,828.20, after trading between 2,820.38 and 2,841.98. The all-shares index shed 7.88 points to 1,898.48.

"Surging commodity prices coupled with a high unemployment rate means domestic demand would remain sluggish," Harry Liu of Summit Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

The government said Tuesday that the unemployment rate had risen to 8 percent in May compared to 7.4 percent in January.

The market remains oversold after last week's plunge to a 20-month low, Liu said, but added, "There isn't any incentive to push the market higher."

Twenty stocks advanced, 78 declined.

SHARES B3

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RP, East Asia face bigger threat due to stock slump

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK SEES THE slump in stock and bond markets, along with soaring food and fuel prices, as a bigger threat to East Asia and the Pacific than the US-led global slowdown.

"The main risks for East Asia and Pacific do not necessarily stem from the global slowdown but from volatility in financial markets, which could manifest in steep declines in securities markets across East Asia—especially in equities and to a lesser degree, off-shore bond markets," the World Bank said in its recent publication Global Development Finance 2008.

The decline was driven not just by uncertainty and the liquidation of portfolio holdings by foreign financial institutions but also by a more realistic evaluation of risk in global financial markets, the bank said.

"A potential risk that requires attention is that a falloff in stock prices may have a contagion effect through the balance sheets of corporations or banks," it said.

In the case of the Philippines, the bank said the stock market index has fallen 27 percent so far this year, steeper than the decline in Malaysia (16.8 percent), Thailand (6 percent), the gainer (12.6 percent) and Indonesia (13 percent). However, the year-to-date fall in the local bourse was not as severe as the drop in Vietnam (58 percent) and China (46 percent).

Based on the latest report from the local central bank, the Philippines has seen a net outflow of "hot money" or foreign investment in stocks. Stock and bank products every month this year except in February. Total net foreign portfolio outflows from January to May amounted to $271.76 million, reversal of the $1.68 billion in net inflows seen in the same period last year.

Aside from the adverse impact of regional market volatility, the World Bank said, dealing with high food and fuel prices would also overthrow a challenge to governments.

"Over the medium term, the answer lies in greater fuel efficiency and stronger and more productive agriculture. But in the short term, the bigger concern is to alleviate the harsh burden rising prices impose on the poor," the bank said.

Meanwhile, the bank said the turbulence in financial markets pushed investor appetite for risk, resulting in a selloff of risky assets in mature and emerging markets.

"Although the selloff has had little impact on the cost of sovereign borrowing from abroad, it has increased the cost of corporate borrowing significantly, particularly for low-credit-quality borrowers," the bank said.

Joey Yuson, an economist at All Capital Securities, said temporary balance sheets would indeed be affected by the recent market slump.

"If there would be any holding companies and financial institutions short-term exposure to security market and equities, depending on how large their investment is, they are susceptible," Yuson said.

World Bank airs warning

Gov't ...

From page B1

Yuson said in a press briefing yesterday.

The finance chief said the combined collections of the BIR and the BOC helped put the government on track to meet this year's target of limiting the budget deficit to P75 billion.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Reynaldo Enad earlier said rising crude prices mean an increase in the collection of VAT on imported oil.

Yuson said the rising prices of oil and other basic commodities also helped the BIR increase the collection of VAT on domestically produced goods as well as services.

The finance chief said, however, that the increase in tax collection was only a short-term benefit of rising fuel prices. In the long run, substantial increase in commodity prices tend to discourage household spending, **which will adversely affect consumer profits.** Lower income of businesses, in turn, means lower tax collection by the government.

Yuson said the BIR and the BOC have been instructed to implement measures to further improve revenue collections to help cover for the government's rising expenditure requirements in the months ahead.

He said the government was bent on increasing spending for social services and infrastructure to boost the economy given a volatile external environment.

Aside from improving the efficiency of the BIR and the BOC in collecting revenues, Yuson said, selling additional government assets was another option for the government to beef up its coffers.

The target of keeping the deficit within P75 billion this year was a revision from the original goal of posting a balanced budget. Economic managers of the Arroyo administration decided to abandon the goal of balancing the budget this year to give way to additional spending or spikeminded, such as subsidies to the poor.

Shares ...

From page B1

and 48 were unchanged.

Turnover fell to P1.91 billion compared to P2.22 billion on Tuesday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co added P15 to P2,470 on bargain hunting.

Ayala Land Inc. rights issue to P1.48 while Metropolitan Bank shed 50 centavos to P57.50 on fears surging inflation may dampen lending rates. AFP

ENTERPRISE LABORATORIES, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

6th Fil-Negosyo Expo set in Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall

IT WILL BE ANOTHER SHOWCASE OF Filipino world-class creativity and entrepreneurship as SM Megatrade Hall holds the 6th Fil-Negosyo Expo at the Megatrade Halls 2 and 3, SM Megamall from June 25-29, 2008.

With the theme "Convergence for Global Competitiveness: Taking Negosyo along Global Flow," the event will gather small and medium enterprises (SMEs) engaged in franchising, dealership, direct selling, banapaste, fashion, logistics, food and beverage, health and beauty, technology, service business, and training, among others.

"Fil-Negosyo Expo was born out of the belief that entrepreneurship and business are vital in economic growth. Data from the Department of Trade and Industry shows that majority of the SMEs need all sorts of support to further boost their growth," says Magsaysay Mall exhibit manager Beth Santos.

She said that the event will offer free business seminars from the business experts representing the country's top companies to create employment and help combat poverty.

The ten-day expo kicks off on June 20 with sessions on financial management, microfinance sources, profitable food cart businesses, liquid dishwashing and fabric softener making, and the Philippine economic miracle.

On June 21, there will be seminars on the art of dressing and fabric softener making, online foreign exchange, home-based meat products business, entrepreneurial checklist.

Emerging enterprises such as pre-paid card business, ink refilling, comic books, water refilling, and wealth management also conduct stage on June 22.

The four-point Young Entrepreneurs Congress starts on June 23 with seminars on leadership and sales and marketing, incorporating new media for business, and program presentations from the Philippine Marketing Association, the Entrepreneur's Society of the Philippines, the National Youth Commission, and the Batang Pilipino Movement.

Featuring the country's most sought after executives and resource persons, the Congress aims to develop the culture of entrepreneurship among the youth and equip them with the knowledge and tools in making business succeed.

The Expo will explore new concepts as on June 27 with the New Business Series facilitated by Developing Resources for Entrepreneurial Advancement and Mobilization (Dream) discussing basic entrepreneurship, business ideas for young entrepreneurs, and the psychology of entrepreneurial success.

The event closes to a close on June 29 with seminars on meat processing, online investment in the Philippine Stock Exchange, direct selling, and the latest use of credit card.

For more information on the 6th Fil-Negosyo Expo, call Ex-Link at 843-3987, 843-7760, 8928-8242532, email events_exlink@yahoo.com or visit www.exlinkevents.com.

New Honda Dealership Rises in the South

On June 19, 2008, Honda Cars Cavite (HCCV) formally opens its doors to the people of Cavite with the aim of bringing Honda products and services closer to its customers. Located along General Emilio Aguinaldo Highway in Dasmariñas, Cavite, HCCV joins the growing number of Honda dealerships nationwide.

HCCV showcases the latest line-up of Honda vehicles and offers world-class quality services to Honda customers in the Cavite, Tree Montana and Tagaytay areas. Honda's newest dealership is a well-designed two-storey structure. It houses a spacious showroom, a customer lounge furnished with a 32-inch screen LCD TV and surround sound system, a fully-equipped service area in the first floor, and various offices in the mezzanine. The dealership boasts of an elegant and comfortable interior that exhibits the premium Honda image. Led by HCCV President Mr. Chibi Chua, General Manager Mr. Dickson Tan and Sales Manager Mr. Patrick Chua, Honda Cars Cavite continues to uphold Honda's commitment of providing comfortable, fuel-efficient, and high-performing vehicles and expert after-sales services at very competitive, value-for-money rates.

In line with its opening, HCCV is offering excellent deals on preventive maintenance service for the first 100 customers. It includes a 50% discount on Honda Genuine Oil and Buy-2-Get-1 deals on Fully Synthetic Honda Genuine Oil and Iridium Spark Plugs. They also get a free authentic Honda cap.

Honda Cars Cavite is the twenty-fourth dealer in the Honda network in the Philippines. For your vehicle needs, you may reach HCCV through telephone numbers *(046) 416-6525 to 26* and *(046) 416-6881 to 84* or simply log on to *www.hondacavite.com* to know more about the dealership.

NFA tapping banks to raise another ₱8 billion

To fund more rice importation, maturing debts

By Michelle V. Xuno

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will borrow another P8 billion to meet its expenditure requirements this year, particularly for more rice importation and payments of maturing obligations, Finance Undersecretary Jeremias Paul Jr. said.

The NFA would be raising its credit lines with banks to raise the P8 billion in additional borrowings, said the Department of Finance, which oversees the financial performance of state-owned firms.

This would be on top of the P8 billion raised by the NFA in February through the sale of long-term bonds that carried a sovereign guarantee.

Paul said the NFA's financial woes were a natural consequence of its mandate to ensure steady supply of affordable rice — selling rice at lower-than-market prices even if it acquired its supply at higher prices.

He said the NFA posted a budget deficit of P2.6 billion last year. The gap is expected to widen this year given the rising prices of rice in the world market.

Earlier projections showed the NFA would post a budget deficit of as much as P40 billion this year, although Paul said latest estimates indicated the gap could hit only P25.8 billion given the measures implemented by the agency to address its financial problems.

Due to its yearly borrowings, which were intended to plug the deficits, the NFA's debts had ballooned to about P58 billion.

One of the measures implemented by the NFA to address its financial woes was the introduction of different varieties of rice that were being sold at higher than the support price of P18 per kilo. The agency is now selling a P23 per kilo rice and it is planning to introduce another variety that will sell at P33.50 per kilo.

Paul said selling rice at varying prices would help the NFA stem its expected losses for the year.

The borrowings will help the NFA complete its target of importing 2.1 million metric tons of rice this year. Paul said the NFA would be buying 600,000 metric tons of rice from domestic producers.

To help the NFA cope with its losses, Paul said the government had decided to effectively exempt the state-owned firm from taxes on rice imports.

ROUNDUP

SPI ranks 17th in Global Outsourcing 100 list

SPI TECHNOLOGIES has been ranked 17th in the annual International Association of Outsourcing Professionals' (IAOP) "2000 Global Outsourcing 100 List."

SPI's parent company, APLB1, said in a statement the SPI Group ranked 17th in the current list, topping the 32nd-place performance last year.

SPI was also cited in the following sub-categories: best 10 companies by services offered: administrative and corporate service; best 10 companies by industry focus: entertainment and media; best 10 companies in Asia/Pacific Rim by employee presence; best 20 companies by services offered: customer relationship management, and best 25 companies by service offered: document management. — **Bea T. Olibenario**

Digital revs up business in RP

DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PHILS., INC. recently tied up with IBM Philippines and Datamonic for an SAP installation on IBM System i5 to support the company's back-office operations.

As the country's most cost-effective mobile provider, announced by the "budget plans" pioneered by its services arm Sun Cellular, Digital is enabling its continuous business growth along with the most cost-effective and resilient solution for back-office support.

The performance of its existing billing system (iCBS), on the IBM System i was used as Digital's benchmark in selecting the solution for its back-office requirements.

This is the first SAP on System i in the country, and the first in Asia for the telecom industry for IBM.

James Velasquez, IBM Philippines country general manager, said: "We at IBM are proud to deliver innovation and IT efficiency to Digital's rapidly expanding businesses in the Philippines through our business partner Datamonic. Our aim is to help our clients grow their businesses through leading edge services and solutions that increase their competitiveness in the local and global marketplace."

DESPITE TRO

PRCI shareholders OK share-swap deal

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

THE MAJORITY SHAREHOLDERS of listed firm Philippine Racing Club Inc. yesterday ratified a contested swap arrangement, plan, involving the exchange of PRCI's 23-hectare real estate property in Makati for shares in holding firm JTH Davies.

This was despite a temporary restraining order secured by the minority shareholders of the company from the Makati Regional Trial Court. The order enjoined certain Santos-Stonehill officers of the company from presenting and ratifying certain portions of the agenda in the company's shareholders meeting, particularly the swap deal proposal.

The deal will pave the way for the redevelopment of the 6ha. prime racetrack into a commercial and residential area. PRCI president Jesus Ilolahia Cua said.

Cua said the majority shareholders agreed with the legal opinion of a lawyer-stockholder (Benjamin Tanco) that the TRO from the Makati RTC was "deficient" since the case filed with that court was covered by a similar case filed with the Supreme Court.

The minority shareholders said Santos represented the interest of the majority shareholders.

"This is a distraction such A distractive suit is a suit filed in behalf of the corporation. There is a case that existed in the RTC which is now with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court issued a TRO in those cases involved identical parties. The distinctions are the same," PRCI executive vice president Ramon Fermin said.

On April 9, 2000, a majority of PRCI directors obtained a favorable ruling from the Court which stopped the Court of Appeals, Makati Trial Court Judge Cesar Untalan and shareholders Miguel Ocampo Tan, Jesus Tan and Brigido Dulay from enforcing decisions made by the Court of Appeals and Makati RTC.

In the information statement, PRCI said that with the high court's TRO blocking the majority shareholders, it could now proceed with the proposed share swap with JTH Davies Holdings.

In May 2000, PRCI's executive committee approved the exchange of the company's 23-hectare racetrack for 765.82 million shares of JTH Davies Holdings.

PRCI will end up owning 91.25 percent of JTH Davies after the swap.

Minority shareholders questioned the "haircut" the new JTH Davies shares will get from the Makati RTC, the Supreme Court and the Makati RTC.

"We are now set to take the next legal steps. We also reserve the right to file the appropriate legal action to seek damages from the actions they took today (Wednesday)," the minority shareholders representing 24 percent of the company said in a statement.

This closure

OKAE ACCORDING TO PUBLICLY LISTED Oriental Peninsula Resources Group Inc. (OPRG), the company will does not have an operational nickel mine today.

Here patterns my first, because OPRG will soon have a "small-scale" nickel mining operations in Palawan.

I mean, so what is the problem? Stars explain?

It's just that OPRG was saying those similar things to the Philippine Stock Exchange or the PSE, as a "disclosure" of a firm that issued hundreds of millions of pesos in the stock market.

In effect, OPRG now admits that it was not exactly truthful in its prospectus, which it gave away to prospective investors in its P600-million initial public offering last December.

In the IPO prospectus, OPRG claimed it had an operational nickel mine in Palawan, even showing photographs of heavy equipment in an apparent mine site.

As an obvious come-on to investors, the company proclaimed that it would be able to produce 600,000 tons of nickel ore by the end of June 2000.

Oops, that's only a few days away! And OPRG has no operational mine set, contrary to what the company claimed in the prospectus.

Another thing, boss—what about some closure? Really what is the PSE doing? I'm not certain that one of the bosses is an underwriter firm, which by the way handled the OPRG IPO, is not unduly manipulating the entire PSE on the market. You know—were it the happens to be a governor of the PSE.

Also, it is no much of you to inject the policemen of the stock market, the Securities and Exchange Commission or the SEC, to do anything about it. Act for you?

* * *

BY PREVIOUS, OPRG disclosed that it already has an IEC (environmental clearance certificate) to operate a nickel mine in Bataraza in the town of Quezada in Palawan.

Due to a different site from the nickel claim in Narra town, also in Palawan, over which OPRG's Tantoco group has been battling the Aboitiz group of Philippine Geog Metals Corp. of PGMC.

Granted that OPRG is ready to operate the Quezada claim, I have just a little question: How will it get the go-signal from the Palawan provincial government?

You see, to do a small-scale mining operation, you need all sorts of permits from the provincial government — i.e., the governor.

It is supposed that the Tantoco group is said to have launched a media demolition job on Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes. Oops—did this!

Moreover, the government now bans the use of heavy equipment in small-scale mining operations.

It seems that OPRG, or its subsidiary Cimnickel, will have to settle for "pala-pala" operations in its small-scale nickel mine in Bataraza.

In nickel mining, however, you have to produce tons upon tons of ore. This you rightly have to use heavy equipment.

In other words, the investors in OPRG's P600-million IPO may still have a little bit of problem with such a claim of the company regarding its soon-to-open small-scale mining plan.

* * *

HERE I SEND quote the letter of its lawyer to me last April, in reaction to our column

BREAKTIME

Conrado B. Banal III

on the misleading claim of the Tantoco group in the OPRG prospectus:

"The Cimnickel has no existing and outstanding MPSA covering 2,176 hectares in the municipalities of Narra and Sofronio Española in Palawan as a fact that means be economically environmental.

"Having said that, the statement in OPRG's prospectus that it has control of an operational mine is not misleading as indeed, as the time that said prospectus was submitted and until today, it continues to have an operational mine in the areas covered by the MPSA issued to Cimnickel."

I say my case, boss. Maybe the latest OPRG disclosure to the PSE was wrong.

* * *

I HEARD that a socialite by the name of Eva Abrosatis has been inspiring about her chance to Olympic Miles.

Olympic Miles holds the claim on the Naves nickel mine, which it put in a joint ventures with the Angelo group's PGMC, but which is also subsequently dealt in a separate joint venture with the Tantoco group.

Talk has it that Abrosatis was close with a member of the Licaros family, who owned Olympic Miles.

Her lawyer supposedly has been asking Olympic Miles for updates on the mining operation. I was told that she has set gunners and snipers to be.

* * *

LAST MONDAY evening, who should walk into the lobby of the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel but rumpun John Gokongwei Jr.?

After a few minutes, JG's son Lance Gokongwei also arrived.

And still a few minutes later, to cone another rumpun, Lucio Tan.

The rumpun-to-rumpun of Lance Gokongwei is said to be Cebu Pacific runways, which is competing with Lucio Tan's Philippine Airlines.

A source confirmed to me that Lucio Tan and the Gokongwei father and son actually had dinner together at the Mandaluyong hotel on that particular night.

Hmmm...something must be up in the airline industry, do you think?

* * *

AS IF IN coincidence, members of the Cabinet are, more precisely, the ex-Cabinet of ex-President Joseph Estrada (a.k.a. the man named Jinggoy Estrada, son of Estrada) were also having a "get-together" in the very same hotel.

The confidence men and women of "former" (but still powerful) Cabinet, such as Former Budget Secretary Ben Diokno, former Agriculture Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales, former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, and former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo.

Also in the same venue...well, on the same day and at the same time—was a former presidential adviser of the Lolo in the Palace on the peace process and now Peace Secretary Jesus Dureza.

He and Lucio Tan were seen exchanging business cards.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Office of the CENR Officer
Masinloc, Zambales

NOTICE OF BIDDING
(Lease of Offshore Land)

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Masinloc, Zambales will accept oral or written bids not later than (10:00) o'clock A.M. on June 30, 2000 for the tract of land herein below described:

Lot No. : Mis-03-000067-D
Location : Bani, Masinloc, Zambales
Land Area : 10.307 square meters
Appraised Value of the Land : PHP 1,280,979.00
Appraised value of Improvement : PHP 1,653,121.27
Rental per annum : PHP 55,250.00
Applied for by : **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION**
Represented by: Cyril C. del Callar,
NPC President

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three percent per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental. Otherwise, such bid is as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(Sgd.) **JUANITO N. DAVID**
OIC, CENR Office

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Office of the CENR Officer
Masinloc, Zambales

NOTICE OF BIDDING
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Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Masinloc, Zambales will accept oral or written bids not later than (10:00) o'clock A.M. on June 30, 2000 for the tract of land herein below described:

Lot No. : Mis-03-000068-D
Location : Bani, Masinloc, Zambales
Land Area : 32.131 square meters
Appraised Value of the Land : PHP 4,016,375.00
Appraised value of Improvement : PHP 1,288,539.488
Rental per annum : PHP 1,004,081.885
Applied for by : **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION**
Represented by: Cyril C. del Callar,
NPC President

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three percent per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental. Otherwise, such bid is as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(Sgd.) **JUANITO N. DAVID**
OIC, CENR Office

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Office of the CENR Officer
Masinloc, Zambales

NOTICE OF BIDDING
(Lease of Offshore Land)

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Masinloc, Zambales will accept oral or written bids not later than (10:00) o'clock A.M. on June 30, 2000 for the tract of land herein below described:

Lot No. : Mis-03-000065-B
Location : Bani, Masinloc, Zambales
Land Area : 14.284 square meters
Appraised Value of the Land : PHP 1,100,000.00
Appraised value of Improvement : PHP 1,040,778.21
Rental per annum : PHP 78,067.76
Applied for by : **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION**
Represented by: Cyril C. del Callar,
NPC President

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three percent per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental. Otherwise, such bid is as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(Sgd.) **JUANITO N. DAVID**
OIC, CENR Office

TEC seeks buyers of 235 MW in excess capacity

By Reena F. Domingo

TEAM ENERGY CORP., THE COUNTRY'S largest independent power producer, yesterday said it was seeking more buyers of its excess generation capacity of 235 megawatts until the drive progress toward open retail competition.

TEC is the joint venture of Japan's Tokyo Electric Power Corp. and Marubeni Corp., which bought out Ellaint Philippines Corp. last year.

The company owns and operates the 1,200-MW Sual power plant in Pangasinan and the 735-MW Pagbilao plant in Quezon, both of which are coal-fired.

TEC president Federico Puno said in an interview that while the firm had long-term supply contracts with state-run National Power Corp., Sual had an excess capacity of 300 MW while Pagbilao had 35 MW.

He said TEC aimed at making revenue of $180,000 per MW yearly from its excess capacity, or $23.5 million per year.

Puno said buyers of TEC output in excess of Napocor demand so far included Benguet Electric Cooperative and Republic Cement Corp., but that another deal with Isa Union Electric Cooperative was up for signing.

Puno explained that without open access or competition in the electricity retail sector, TEC was bound to seek Napocor's permission to engage third-party customers.

"Without open access we cannot offer supply to direct customers," he said.

On May 21, a group of independent power producers and private distributors submitted which include the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry filed a petition with the Energy Regulatory Commission asking the agency to allow an interim open access amid a slow progress in privatization of government power plants.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act states that open access would be allowed only when 70 percent of the National Power Corp.'s power plants and IPP contracts in Luzon and the Visayas has been privatized.

Privatization of 70 percent of Napocor assets is expected to be achieved within this year, but that of Napocor's IPP contracts is still in progress.

The petitioners had drawn up terms of reference for an interim open access amid uncertainties in amending the Epira and the chance among large electricity consumers to have the implementation of retail competition fastened but still subject to the framework of the Epira.

SM Prime notes issue raised ₱3B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

MALL OPERATOR SM PRIME HOLDINGS Inc. said it had raised P3 billion through its recent issuance of fixed rate notes.

In a disclosure, the company said the deal was arranged by First Metro Investment Corp. The facility will have maturities of five years, seven years and 10 years from issue date.

The amount raised will be used to fund ongoing capital expenditures and to meet its general corporate requirements.

SM Prime said the issue was oversubscribed with 14 primary institutional lenders and buying.

The company earlier reported a 7 percent growth in its first quarter profit to P1.6 billion from P1.5 billion in the same period last year.

Gross revenue rose by 8 percent to P3.62 billion from P3.35 billion, due to higher rental earnings from the three new malls that were opened in 2007 namely, SM City Bacolod, SM City Tarlac and SM Supercenter Muntinlupa.

For the first quarter of 2008, rental revenue from all the malls, which accounted for 85 percent of total revenue, grew by 10 percent to P3.26 billion from P2.96 billion in the same period last year.

Due to new mall openings last year, operating expenses increased by 6 percent to P1.6 billion.

Operating income rose by 9 percent to P2.2 billion mainly due to cost saving measures implemented in the malls.

Egg producers ask for safety net

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF EGG Producers of the Philippines (NEFPO) is seeking a more regulated industry as a safety net against the adverse effects of a booming overnight.

The NEFPO is asking the Departments of Trade and Industry and Agriculture to closely monitor the expansion of existing poultry farms and the entry of new players in the egg production sector and ensure that there is a healthy balance between supply and demand.

The industry group also asked the government to monitor the entry and inventory of potential smaller farms that produce layers—to avoid overbuilding the egg supply situation.

NEFPO president Gregorio San Diego Jr. said parent stocks brought in by suppliers had to be closely monitored because the stock would be the basis of the supply of laying hens and eggs in the future.

"A glut in the market will cost help anyone. What we need is for the industry and the government to work closely in monitoring supply. We have over 15,000 egg farmers all over the country and we will be the ones who will be hit the hardest by uncontrolled growth and the entry of the many parent stocks into the country," San Diego said.

He explained that in other countries, egg industry groups were working closely with their governments to regulate the industry going as far as regulating the entry of new players and the expansion of existing production levels.

The local industry produces about nine billion eggs a year. San Diego said sales last year reached P28 billion.

He said that despite the rising costs of feeds and materials, prices of eggs at the farm gate had been up a downward trend starting three last December.

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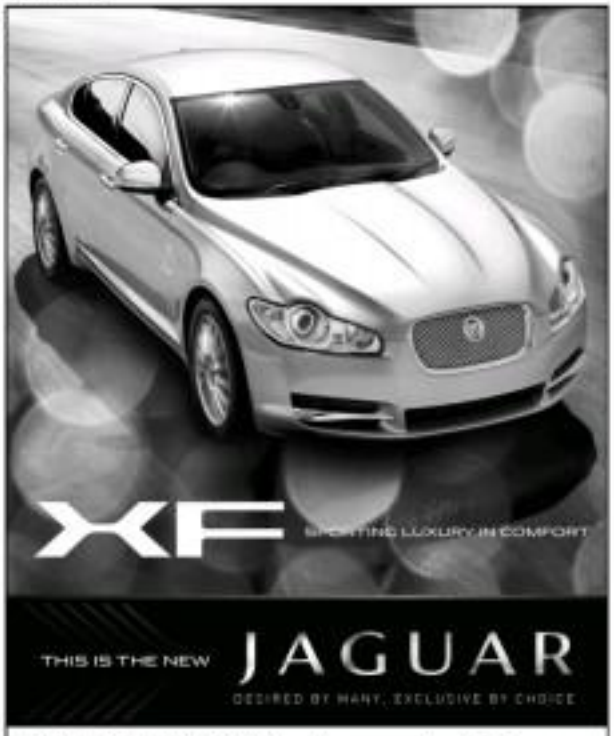

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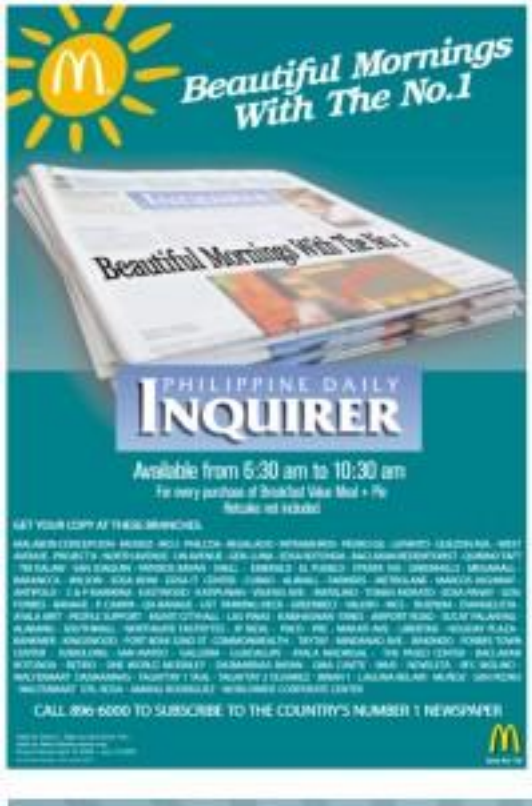

By Dave C. Dumlao

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY WILL HAVE TO learn to live with expensive crude as prices are expected to stay above $120 a barrel until next year despite a global economic slowdown, according to BNP Paribas.

The French banking giant predicted that the benchmark for light, sweet crude would hit $141.50 a barrel at the New York futures exchange in the third quarter before easing slightly to $131 a barrel by the end of the year.

As such, BNP Paribas in its June global outlook raised its full-year average forecast for crude oil to $123.95 a barrel from the previously $104 a barrel.

The bank also said that crude oil would likely increase to an average of $150.80 a barrel next year.

BNP Paribas said demand for the commodity continues to increase, especially from China, which is reportedly stockpiling on oil in preparation for the Olympics in August.

Despite calls for Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, on the other hand, was expected to increase next year on the first semester as the growth outlook for traditional suppliers, like Russia, had turned sour.

"This leaves the oil market heavily dependent on the marginal barrel: than Qatar chooses, or not, to supply both today and in the future," the bank said.

It said the market remained very sensitive to supply disruptions, actual or perceived, in key oil-producing countries.

On the economic costs of high oil prices, BNP Paribas said many Asian economies were seeing their trade surpluses shrink with weakening exports and higher import costs.

In this context, the bank said inflation would be a determinant factor this year. "Central banks in emerging markets face a dilemma: they can let national currencies appreciate relative to the US dollar (and hence already weakening export growth) or they can raise reserve requirements and increase rates to tame credit growth," it said.

The bank said either measure would have consequences on economic growth and, therefore, oil demand growth.

RP firms vow to pursue social projects despite hard times

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS THEREOF said difficult times would not stop them from pursuing projects related to corporate social responsibility, especially if CSR was being pursued by the businesses itself.

Felipe B. Alfonso, CSR expert and head of the Eugenio Lopez Foundation, said in yesterday's Good News Kapihan that a good example was Figaro Coffee Co., whose CSR programs was part of its supply chain.

Because it gets farmers to produce coffee, it is assured of a stable supply of beans while helping raise the farmers' income.

Ramon M. Al Ribyat, president of Ayala Corp., said in the same forum that during these times, what connect was how a company spends its CSR budget.

"We at Petron try to find synergies with other organizations," Al Ribyat said. "By pooling our resources (with those of others) we get more results than if we did our separate CSR programs."

Alfonso and Al Ribyat made these statements as the League of Corporate Foundations kicked off its 7th CSR Conference 2008, which would be held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel from July 16 to 18.

LCF president Pacita U. Juan said that given the growing poverty, slower economic growth and faster inflation, there has never been a more urgent need for corporations to reach out to communities to which they operate.

"Business has never been more recognized of its role in society and it has come to the realization that for a body organization exists to move with the chief executive if its CSR efforts are to be sustainable and have an impact on all of its stakeholders," Juan said.

"Whether top-down or bottom-up, every company must take CSR seriously if it wants to survive in these times of intense competition and unprecedented challenges," she added.

The year's CSR conference – a themed "CSR is Everyone's Business" and is aimed at engaging business leaders from the country's top corporations and members of professional organizations and various chambers of commerce and industry to demonstrate the Swiss itself.

Juan said that since the societal benefits of CSR were "already clear," the conference would focus on the business case for CSR.

Amongst CSR cues help boost the company's sustainability, she said.

Juan added that the conference would highlight cases that show how CSR has helped leading companies achieve business objectives while helping build communities and protecting the environment.

Wafer slicing plant up

FIRST PHILEC SOLAR Corp. yesterday inaugurated its P3.4-billion wafer slicing facility in city technopark, said to be the first of its kind in the country.

PHSC is an 60-20 joint venture between Power, the Lopez group's First Philippine Electric Corp. and solar wafer manufacturer SunPower Manufacturing Ltd.

SPML is a subsidiary of the United States' SunPower Corp., which designs, manufactures and delivers solar electric technology.

Company president Emilio C. Lachica said in a statement that the venture was envisioned to produce 140 million wafers a year to support some 720 megawatts of solar energy.

He said that currently, PHSC's entire output is exported, but that the firm hopes in the future to supply energy industry to develop "solar rise wafers will be in photovoltaic panels [solar] in Philippine homes."

Ronnel W. Domingo

LIFESTYLE Food
Lito Theina Simon San Juan

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Expats' guide to classic Pinoy food

RAMADON's Lechon de Leche

Part 2

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

(Continued from Lifestyle June 12, 2008 issue)

LIKE ARISTOCRAT, MILKY WAY HAS ESTABLISHED IN THE '50S as an ice cream parlor in the Old San Miguel before it was bought by the Arcadios in 1963. It became known for heavy merienda fare such as halo-halo, dinuguan (meat stew), sandwiches, cakes and regional cuisine.

Some cooks from the original kitchen are still around. General Cabinteng recommends (his restaurant is the third-largest. "They have good Filipino and Hongarapo dishes. The bite is simple but good."

Veteran journalist and foodie Teddy Montalbano says, "The adobong pusit (squid), adobong puso (heart), sotanghon na baka at sitaw, and—best of all—beef stomach stuffed with beef, pork and other classic Filipino staples, are all delicious."

Located at 2/F Shilloway Bldg., 900 Pasay Road, Makati City, 8424126/8427124; Boulevard Power Plaza, 7565826; 7/F Mall Wilcon Mall G/F Greenhills Shopping Center, 7265541)

Aristocrat

Founded in 1936, this restaurant paved the way for other Filipino restaurants. The original Aristocrat in Quezon Memorial Circle in Brgy. Chief Elizalde Quirazon declares the barbecue is unmatched.

"The barbecue is continuously being ordered so there are no pre-cooked ones that will dry out or get tough," says Nancy Reyes-Lumen. "It's all cooked a la minute, marinating their customers still consuming hot and fresh from the cooks. Worth the good wait. And would you believe our coffee is one of the best in town? Continuous loyal traffic means always fresh brew available."

Located at 452 San Andres cor. Remedios Boulevard, Malate, Manila, 5207677 to 80, 140 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati, 8958275/8983722; Robinsons Place Manila, Pedro Gil wing, 5209920)

ARISTOCRAT'S Barbecue with java Rice

Kamayan

Foreigners usually get their first taste of the Jacket (roasted suckling pig) at Kamayan, observes Reyes-Lumen. The Kamayan Lechon de Leche is its signature dish, made from a month-old pig.

Kamayan's concept runs eating the traditional way—with the hands. Today, it thrives on the eat-all-you-can buffet that features over 80 Asian-grown dishes. It also includes the lechon and Grill bars.

(Located at Glorietta, 8928898; Megamall, 6362780; F. Ponce, Ermita, 5301725; West Avenue, Quezon City, 3718843)

Fely J's Kitchen

This new restaurant consolidates the top dishes of the LIC restaurants. There are very long tables set for reunions and meetings. The popular dishes are pork asap with jackfruit, St. Peter's fish with plum sauce, buro-si or a combination of thick noodles with glass noodles and pork adobo, sotanghon and tempered shrimps with green chillies. Everyone is raving about the iced version of the apple pie, which uses guava instead.

(Located at Greenhills 3)

(More next week)

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6 Australian state
10 Pay ___ attention
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20 Paper thinner
21 "I'll be in touch"
22 Camera needs
26 Get down
27 Jolly idea
30 Chesterfield
31 Novel research
33 Peeved
34 Eldest
35 Time-honoring
37 Pioneers
39 Yours
40 Part of an eye
42 Action verb
44 Mentor
45 Diabetes test
46 Sound of a bell
47 Asking to walk
distant
48 Jumble softly
51 Up-coming
commercial
52 Hearing
53 Part of an eye
55 Wasteful one
60 Sound of relief
62 End of work
63 Stick out
64 Cry on the
Arbor Street
65 Collection of
cards
66 Short skirts
67 Ant ___
68 Some lives

DOWN
1 Golden Palomino
2 "It's typical
stadium
3 Baby of old
Sydney
4 Place scanning
5 Wonderland
character
6 Poker question
7 A Gershwin
instrument
8 Passport stamp

By Michael T. Williams
Greenwater, Pa.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because of your natural charm and friendly nature, you're popular. You always have something to say to someone. Your sensitivity to the feelings of others makes you a good listener. You're generous and you're willing to help others whenever you can. You're also a person who organizational abilities, home and family play an important part in your daily routine. This year might be one of the strongest, most powerful periods of your life.

BORN ON: Guy Lombardo, bandleader; Phyllis Diller, actress; Jon Stewart, broadcaster.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the studio ahead your focus, ability to finish, talents and interests. Dealing with someone could be significant. Count on opportunities and romance.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Extraordinary outlook. The need to socialize and getting to the bottom of things. Short trips, versatility, increased reading and writing. Clarify ties and talking to someone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have an excuse to increase saving. You'll give lots of thought to how you want to live. Pay attention to your finances and see how you want to spend your money.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This can be a very busy time for you. Your work, responsibilities and personal health is key.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Talk to facilitate a new deal. You're very thinking to do. Social connections in your life. You're in a romantic mood. Get as much time as you can while you have the chance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Find yourself in a very adventurous, with romance in the cards. Talk to others about how to improve and dreams for the future. Trust feedback and buy your

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Use this time to get moving for the top of your class. Someone in your life is particularly nice. This is a very busy period, travelers and leisure will likely be very busy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Try to focus on ideas from your work routine in the next month. Travel is your key. Open up for a chance. Learn something new, and seek out advancement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're in a very good mood and you're pairs with business matters, disturbances and starting new projects. Be very careful this month. It's a good time for research and [illegible].

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Partnerships are important. Be sure to become a greater importance to your life during the next few weeks. Romance is in the air. Be careful with your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your desire to be independent is growing. In the next month, you will draw, public attention to yourself. Be careful not to be a bit of a tease! Set as much time as you can while you have the chance.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Learn the value of checking every one a variation now to be much ahead, you want to work towards and have fun!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

6		7	5	8	2	4
9				2		7
2		6	3			1
7			4	5		9
1		9				3
8		5	4	1	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every columns, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 6.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	1	3	5	2	4	
7	3	9	4	2	8	1
5	2	4	6	1	7	3
8	6	1	3	4	5	2
9	5	2	8	7	3	6
4	7	3	2	6	1	8
2	8	6	1	3	4	5
1	4	5	7	8	2	3
3	4	7	5	9	6	2

French Sabayon

By Nonna Chiknas
Contributor

IN CELEBRATION OF INTERContinental Hotels & Resorts' 60th anniversary, InterContinental Manila is re-creating some of the best dishes of its other hotels.

The first of these presentations, held May 30-June 2, featured popular items on the menu of InterContinental Carlton Cannes on the French Riviera.

The menu included cocktails with fresh local vegetables and shellfish dishes; sea bass fillet with black olives and zucchini, marinated garlic, mint's cheese and tomatoes; and for dessert, there was Sabayon, a classic French dessert, served with poached cantaloupe compote.

Here's our own recreation of InterContinental's Sabayon.

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

Sabayon

1 cup whipping or heavy cream
6 egg yolks
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup of white wine
Zest of one orange
Sugar for topping, optional

Whip cream in a bowl of electric mixer until medium peaks form.

Cover bowl and keep in refrigerator until ready to use.

Whisk the egg yolks over a double boiler.

Add sugar gradually while whisking continuously until mixture thickens slightly.

Pour in wine and continue whisking until mixture becomes very thick.

Transfer to a clean bowl of electric mixer and whip the mixture until it cools. Fold in prepared whipped cream and orange zest.

Pour into individual serving cups or flan molds. Chill until firm. Invert with fresh or canned fruits and chocolate.

Optional: If desired, before serving, sprinkle sugar on top of each Sabayon and use a portable blow torch to brown the top.

Makes 6-8 servings.

FRENCH Sabayon, after the trademark dessert of Hotel InterContinental Carlton Cannes

Cook's tips

- While Sabayon may look like a créme brûlée, it has a softer and more pliable texture. It is sometimes used as a sauce for fresh fruits and sponge desserts.
- To get the most volume out of the whipping cream, pre-chill the mixing bowl and the beaters of an electric mixer before using them to whip the cream.
- If available, use superfine sugar so mixture doesn't become gritty.
- Use only the zesty orange part of the fruit to get the zest. Do not use the white inner part which is bitter.
- To cool the egg mixture quicker, position the bowl containing the mixture over another bowl filled with ice. Whip with a handheld electric mixer.

Road-trip stopovers

COUNTRY COOKING

Hicky Fernio

IT WAS MY FIRST time to travel by land to Ilocos. Just thinking about it made me tired.

A plane ride would have meant only 40 minutes from Manila to Laoag's, OK, okay, plus one hour getting to the airport, two hours waiting to ride the plane, 30 minutes at least to claim your baggage. Still, 12 hours' travel time was nothing to be glad about.

What made the trip bearable were the stops we made to eat. But to have unrefined choices is to have a guide who knows where.

Helen has said so the Ilocos Times was our guide whose past time when going on his road trips is shopping by curiosity along the way, opening all the cabinets (scolding pots) lined up on the bilaos and deciding by aroma and smelling if any are worth eating.

Sunny had written up our schedule that we would leave breakfast either at Pinoy and Grace, known for its boiled beef dish at Salcedo in Batangas or at a more place in San Pablo, Laguna.

When we reached what is known as the "junction" in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, the car just kept on going. More intricate parent then past the refined craving in San Pablo, the car stopped in front of a place where huge kettles were boiling something and beckoned to us.

We entered a shack with long tables inside. There were customers eating what looked like a full meal for breakfast. Bowls of mami were ordered for us and the boss soon in charge took some pork, mostly fat, and strands of egg noodles.

Then he turned on console to relieve the kettles were opened one, then scooped out the broth, replace in the kettle.

The rule to eat mami is to squeeze calamansi juice in, add ground pepper and sliced chili if a spicier note is needed.

The more important thing is to eat it with pan de Sosa or else by biting on the bread first and sipping the soup or pinching bits of bread off then placing them to the soup.

The soup was a bit thick and I detected some starch, not rice. The mami was considerably hot, a great wake-upper.

Sunny didn't know the name of the cafeteria since the place didn't have a signage, or so we thought.

When we asked the man in charge he said "Shineh Shane Hero." Leaving the place there was, indeed, a small sign outside, too small for a car to avoid drive-in detour.

The mami made us stops which made the ride, especially the bumpy detour in Santiago, Quezon, bearable. A few siesta and then it was time for lunch.

We arrived about an hour before noon at Lilia and Jesse Medrosa's house in Atimonan, Quezon. The place was already filled with travelers like us.

Again, the menu wasn't unusual and I'm only able to know it because of the receipt for the meal.

Bossy said he has been stopping there with his every trip to Albay. The place used to be a small eatery with the curb so by focusing has the restaurant is now bigger, connected including the floor.

Everyone goes to the nervure counter to their orders. We asked for sinigang na sobrang lamigdose (one soup of sandwich) lamig; fried fish two pansanang bangus (milkfish cooked in coconut milk); and sinigang ng alimango (crab cooked with veg).

I especially liked the sinigang which used tamarind sweet. The pansanan was made hot with chili making us eat more rice than we intended and reminded us we were nearing Bicol.

FRIED egg

We saw what looked like cupcakes in a display. We all got one but was told we had to buy the whole bunch (pilay). We didn't mind since we had sweet bananas the next days.

The rest of our road trip meant no more eateries along the way. But Sunny still managed to find the best places to eat in volunteers previous he happens to pass through.

It never was in the family because he said grandmas who headed a drug firm always required his agenas to inform us where the best food could be had in their assigned routes.

It would be good if someone made an eating guide for all road stoppers. That's how the Gayide Michelin started. That is, until it became more a prestigious assessment of a chef rather than just a guide.

Pampanga festival

Salcedo Market hosts the Pampanga festival this Saturday, June 21, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Merchant's will be selling their best dishes. There will be cooking demonstrations such as the Lazatin family's recipes. There will be an exhibition and a cultural show featuring Aeta Iba Reke.

E-mail: pinoyfoodlib@yahoo.com

GUINATAANG bungos at a Banawe, Quezon City eatery

Thai hawker's cuisine

EXPERIENCE THAI MARKETS scenes at the Bantaga Food Mart & Pavilion Cafe until June 30. Must-try dishes include Spicy Fried Noodles, Papaya Salad, Fish Cakes in Banana Leaf, Beef and Duck Noodle, Hot and Sour Seafood, Pineapple Fried Rice, Sour Curried Curry, Stuffed Tofu, Green Curry Duck with chili and tomato dip.

Get a chance to win a holiday package to Bangkok inclusive of 3 three days, four nights stay with breakfast at the Amara Hotel, 3 Bedrooms Hotel, Sukhumvit, Bangkok and one Manila-Bangkok round-trip ticket courtesy of Thai Airways. Call 8554668.

HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Pad Thai

BEYES barbecue

Mouthwatering chicken barbecue

The combination of hot Bacolod chicken, pleasant service and pure love is Beyers Barbecue's crowd favorite offering to hungry Makati office workers. The serving of delicious fillet of chicken is tender, juicy and tasty owing to the fact that every meat is cooked immediately upon ordering (hence the customer service part). If the dish is reminiscent of this one lover of adobo at restaurant, it's because it is in basic's original recipe officially handed down to the next generation owner of Beyers. But because Beyers Barbecue is located at the 5/F Phase One, 2737 Pasong de los Angeles Drive, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Westgate feast

There's buffet, beer, burgers and more waiting for you in Westgate Center this June. Eat&Go and then Monday Family Buffet, Tuesday Lunch and Dinner, Every Thursday Night Party, Friday Happy Hour every day, 6-8 p.m. Eat 10 get one free discount on cash and 10 percent discount on credit card for all the beer, wine, shampagne, cocktails and other favorite drinks only 6 miles.

Meanwhile, if you go to Ortigas Center with a group of eight, you are in for a lucky treat. From 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., a minimum single overall purchase of P1,000 will get you a free platter of Crispy Pata. Free pulutan is served for every order of five bottles of Red Horse Light, Centennial Premium Beer on the anniversary on June 22. From 11 a.m.-10 p.m., get 10 percent off on all bar fare.

Westgate Center is at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Call 8809617 loc 279.

Sugar and spice

Thai-Zone Waterfront Manila Pavilion presents selected items of its top-like Dumplings Buffet, Glazed Asian Chicken and Deli Truffles at the Patisserie.

At the Pinoy Garden, Steamed Fish Head in Cleaning Wing Sauce, Fish Head in Curry Sauce, Sun Mee Style Fish Head in Clay Pot are offered. Call 8551212.

TOKYO Cafe's Hamburg and Shrimp Steak

Japanese specialties

Tokyo Cafe is located at SM Mall of Asia, SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City. SM The Block is North Edsa Avenue, Quezon City.

Dining Out

Asian cuisine

Chilean Sea Bass, Tomato-Wrapped Endives with Cilantro-Mint, Wagyu Beef, Soy Cheese-cake with Green Tea Mousse, Tuna Cannon with crisp tofu cone fillers and more to choose. Espresso Salad in parmesan cups, L'Opera with brown grass and grape; Cocoa Mint Crisp with Mocha biscuit and mint mousse. Dome Lapu-Lapu Skewers with kaffir chutney are offered at Cocoloco New Asia Cuisine.

Contempo New Asia Cuisine

MONGOLIAN Quick Soup's Spicy Seafood Rice Meal

is located at the G/F of S. Veloso Events Mall, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Eat-all-you-can Mongolian

Enjoy a Mongolian Eat-All-You-Can at Penang at Mongolian Quick Soup. Spice Szechuan Rice Meals, Sweet Teriyaki Rice Platter, grilled dishes, Mongolian Spice dish and specialties corn dishes with free unlimited refreshment.

Mongolian Quick Soup is located at Festival Mall, Food Express Gateway, FOBC Plaza Makati, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place – Ermita, SM Manila, SM Fairview, SM Megamall, Trinoma Center – Mindanao City, Waltex Mall Makati, Cyberzone – Eastwood, Foodcourt – Cash & Carry, Festivite – North Edsa Alabang, Waltex Mall North Edsa, Makati.

DESERT MIYAMA

Diamond Hotel recently opened The Cake Club at the second level of Bacolod-Pinoy Plaza Mall. A cake dessert paradise displaying in a pastry and coffee shop, The Cake Club is a convenient stop for cake lovers. Its unique ambiance features such as Baked Cheesecake, Le Royale Supervisor Chocolate Cake and the Diamond's famous Amaretto. The best also offers specially created dessert buffet packages for any occasion—house events meetings, merchandising occasions, exclusive receptions, birthdays or weddings. Pierre Hugon and general manager Ravindra Gyanda at the launch of The Cake Club. Call 3031888 local 8111 or 8311008.

Anticancer and wellness menu

PART 2

THE PAST FIVE ITEMS I'VE BEEN DOING REGULARLY, so far, has been more or less consistent for a year off, to full and in advance, than this one. The response was incredible!

This is what Judy Ann says and her anticancer wellness menu.

In-between meals

- Eat oatmeal three to four times a day. I use 100-percent natural Australian Rolled Oats Brown. Infact, without preservatives. I buy the unhydrated apple, often begin that are not too sweet.
- Eat fresh fruits like apricots, berries, cranberries, figs, green apples, kiwi, nectarines, oranges, papayas, pomelos, plums and tangerines.
- Eat in moderation sweet fruits like bananas, grapes, mangoes, pears, pineapples. Digest because cancer is to most growth.)
- Drink 10-12 glasses of warm water (alkaline, mixed or filtered).
- Eat raw nuts like almonds/walnuts, six pieces each time. May also eat roasted fresh cheesecake.
- Eat a small handful of raw and unroasted seeds like squash, sesame, sunflower, watermelon, pumpkin.

FOR VIDA to stay healthy, 50 percent of your diet should consist of organic vegetables.

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www.henrysison.com

KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Aquino

- Consume at least six times a day:
  1. Green apple and carrot juice extracted from one pecked green apple and three pieces peeled medium-size carrots; or
  2. Green leafy juice extracted from green apple, sampaloc, farmer type of spinach, Romaine lettuce and home-grown wheat grass if available.
- 3. Drink one glass of warm water to bind him.

Totally abstain from the following:

- Refined sugar
- Rock or refined salt
- Fried, preserved, canned, packaged and fortified food
- Fast, junk, restaurant food
- Dairy products except goat milk
- Beef, pork, fish and other seafood
- Soy products, peanuts, cashew nuts
- Preservatives, chemicals, artificial flavoring or coloring

Optional after 6 months diet

May eat once a month:

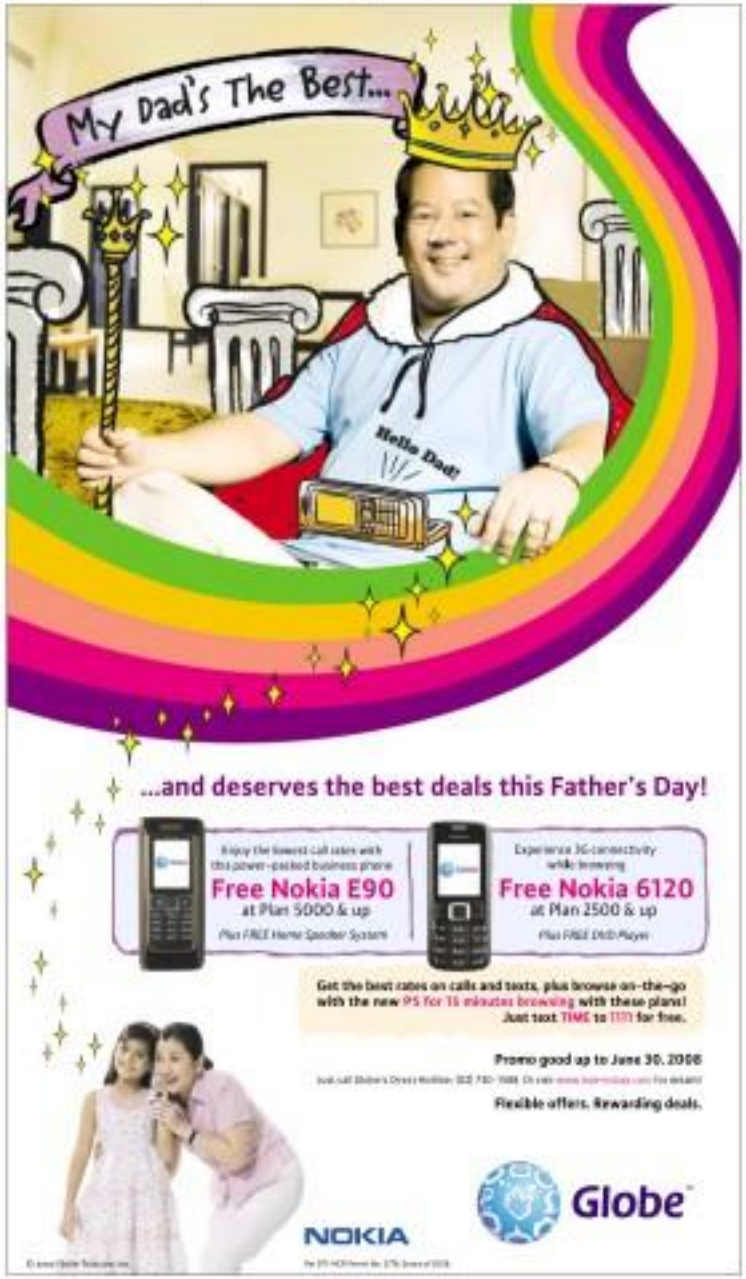
- Steamed organic chicken cooked with green onions, turmeric ginger and garlic). Use organic chicken and eggs, like chicks, call Nina at 09 17-8041161.
- Boiled organic egg
- Steamed deep-sea fish like Alaskan salmon, sea bass, halibut

Personal notes

- I do not eat anything with a face.
- If you cannot go cruelty-free vegetarian, at least stuff livestock 60/40. Eat 60 percent organic vegetables, raw, juices consume between five minutes; 20 percent fruit that's not too sweet; 10 percent protein like nuts or seeds; 10 percent good oil like flaxseed, virgin oils.
- I take different kinds of enzymes and supplements. Please consult a doctor to administer doctor regarding the supplements.
- I notice no improvement in acidity by blood enzyme.
- Read labels of supplements. Always choose organic or herbal, without additives or preservatives.
- Use green leaf stevia powder as sweetener, positively the safest sweetener.
- Use raw dried sea salt as seasoning, add herbs and spices to flavor food.
- Eat fresh yogurt.
- Eat sprouted vegetables like mung sprouts, alfalfa, broccoli.
- Do not use microwave oven for cooking or heating food because 90 percent of food nutrients are lost.
- Use ceramic or glass cookware, avoid metal cookware.
- I do coffee enema once a week to re-energized.
- I do Gil Hydrotherapy Detoxification Method.
- I use a Bio Energizing Zapper to cleanse my body of parasites, bacteria, viruses and kill cancer cells. (Because of Judy's many of us have purchased this equipment. It works like a charm! All aches and pains gone, leaves you feeling so healthy and full of energy!) Call Alma at 0919-5578801 or visit www.myenergyzapper.com.
- I use an ionizer to remove toxins from my vegetables. Call 7704687.
- Brisk walk 15-20 minutes daily. Walk leisurely for twice that hour daily.
- Keep a daily journal of food I take and note my body's reactions.
- Rest for one hour after lunch. Sleep for six to eight hours each night or rested 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. rejuvenation, revive and remake new cells and hormones.
- Consume maximum two to three tablespoons of organic extra-virgin olive oil, but do not heat or use for cooking.
- Schedule for at least 30 minutes before 9 a.m. daily. If you eat a lot of Tinkerbell and feeling pressured to eat three upon consumption or leaving before swallowing, that could be the cause of all kinds of skin cancer.
- Do aerobic exercise for 45 minutes three a week.
- Do deep-breathing exercise once a day in the morning.
- Bring down exposure to pesticides and chemicals soon on face, skin and clothing.
- Eat according to your blood type. Refer to "Eat Right For Your Type," written by Dr. Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney.
- Be happy and have a positive mental attitude.
- Pray and fix your for God's healing.
- Surround yourself with loving family and true friends. Be willing to take risks. This paid off. I am now cancer-free!

For a full copy of Judy Ann's diet, call 9209296 and look for Anne.

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.



ENTERTAINMENT

Julie Rosete Q. Velarde

No splitup

JUDY Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo

AS IF THE ABSCAM-ID INTERIOR weren't keeping her hands full, Judy Ann Santos also had to contend with breakup gossip.

A source made the rounds that Juliá and Ryan Agoncillo have split up, causing Ryan to up and leave sudsery through their movie's long holiday in Europe.

He reportedly failed to appear in shows announced by The Filipino Channel (TFC), in Ireland and Italy.

Ryan's manager, Noel Serra, denied the rumors. The two are still very much a couple, he said. So what sparked the controversy?

After the couple's meeting with friend Sharon Cuneta in London, Ryan had to fly to Amsterdam for a while to sign important documents pertaining to a family enterprise, and a source, Amsterdam, as a transport hub, was the most convenient place to meet.

After that short "separation," Juliá and Ryan picked up where they left off and are now basically in Prague.

Perhaps the most effective way to debunk the rumor is this report by an observer: She is still swaying the much-hobbyhood "extravaganza" ring.

Juliá and Ryan are expected back in Manila end of June. First week of July they return to France, to attend the screening of "Hiraing" at the Festival Palo Cinema.

Lettermen, Pat Upton on July 3

THE LETTERMEN AND PAT UPTON of Spinal Tapestry perform back-to-back on July 3 at the Araneta Coliseum.

This marks The Lettermen's sixth appearance in the Philippines in 25 years, the most recent being last year; Upton of Spinal Tapestry returns two years after his 2006 stint.

The Lettermen's original trio—Bishop started recording in 1958. It scored a hit in 1961 with a cover of "The Way You Look Tonight," followed by another cover of "When I Fall in Love," which went to No. 7 in the Billboard Hot 100. After dozens of hits and personnel changes—with Tony Butala remaining as the original member—the group has maintained the basic trio lineup of young soldiers who are also harmonizers.

Upton is best known as the singer and guitarist who wrote and recorded "More Today Than Yesterday with the band Spiral Staircase. Formed in 1964 and named after a movie of the same title, Spiral Staircase went on to record other songs such as "Broken-Hearted Man," "One Day Will Come," "Since I Don't Have You," "For Once in My Life," "The Thought of Loving You," "The Guy's In Love With You," "Sweet Little Thing" and "I'm Into Be My Number One." It broke up in 1971 but Upton successfully launched his own career.

SHOW TIME

SuGuip's 4th anniversary

SuGuip celebrates its 4th anniversary with a special two-night series June 27 featuring Barefoot, Grey-Hounds, Urbandals, Sandwich, Imago, Negatibi, Seven, Corporate Lo-Fi, Imago

IMAGO

The Low Tycks, Pedicab, Supersolids, The Summer and Typhoon, June 28's lineup: Up Dharma Down, Taken By Cars, Chicosci, Giraffe Festival, Orly, Slang, Hawaiian, Us 2, Bob G, Sunsurfer, Chubbs, Schpowerz, Triggerfinger, Angelo and Skin of Ember.

Call 897-9629 or log on to sugujo.com.

Dolors and Sopic

Reality TV shows get weirder and weirder

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SO THE REALITY TV CRAZE winds down, producers are coming up with increasingly senseless shows to keep viewers entertained. One of the strangest we've stressed of late helps troubled couples—not in overcome their relationships, but to end them! How cynical is that?

On a recent telecast, "Break-up" first interviewed the guy in the relationship, who yakked about his girlfriend's yucky character flaws. We wondered why he'd fallen in love with her in the first place.

Things went from bad to worse when the girlfriend was duped into appearing in her own interview, then was made to watch a tape of the boyfriend dissing her. This led to the "recovery shot," with the girlfriend breaking down big-time on-cam, for all the world to pity or laugh at.

As though that weren't cruel enough, the engulfed twain then reunited the set, and the two were battle-filled lovers lashed away at each other again in full, living view of the televiewers.

One wonders why couples would want to outdoors their hurts and hates in as public a manner as this—until we remember that Jerry Springer's show has sunk to even lower and meaner depths.

Painfully private

For the record, the whole nasty-on "Break-up" begins when one of the disgruntled lovers agrees to tell all on TV in the first place. Why go public about something so painfully private as a breakup? The will-tell, spill-all lovers must be so hungry for TV "fame" that he's ready to compromise his girlfriend's feelings for it, even if it turns out to be nothing more than money.

Other "revenge" reality shows: •"Cinemax Hot 8"—about dog groomers who compete with one another, and the winner is decided on by—the dogs!

•"Wife Hung"—one very different women exchange families and households for a week, and learn to cope with new expectations and challenges. This is an OK format, except for the fact that some of the challenges are taken to extremes, to dollars or death viewers.

•"It Has to Love"—lovers are made to do all sorts of bizarre things to "prove" their "love" for each other. Take your pick: walking on broken glass, eating porcine private parts...yuck!

•"Who's Got the Look?"—a "model search" show for women who are at least 35 years old. Things get crazy when 65-year-old "supermom" secretly grandma stuff. The spirit may be willing, but the old bod is an unsightly

For inquiries, call 888-1200 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-888-1200 (Provinces)

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

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GALLERIA

1 GET SMART
2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 ALTERED
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
7 KUNG FU PANDA
8 indieSine: HUGOT
9 THE HAPPENING
10 GET SMART

ERMITA

1 MADE OF HONOR
2 GET SMART
3 URDUJA
4 ALTERED
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
7 KUNG FU PANDA
8 THE HAPPENING
9 CARE GIVER / SEX AND THE CITY

METRO EAST

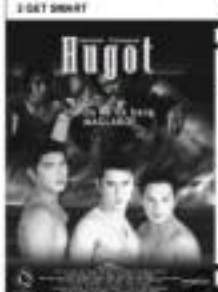
1 URDUJA
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 ALTERED
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
7 KUNG FU PANDA
8 THE HAPPENING

NOVALICHES

1 URDUJA
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

PIONEER

1 URDUJA
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 ALTERED / INCREDIBLE HULK



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MTRCB Rating: R-13 June 16 to 24

STA. ROSA

1 URDUJA
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

LIPA

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 CARE GIVER
4 KUNG FU PANDA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

DASMARINAS

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 GET SMART

IMUS

1 URDUJA
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

ANGELES

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 GET SMART

STARMILLS

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 CARE GIVER
5 GET SMART
6 KUNG FU PANDA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

BACOLOD

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 GET SMART
5 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
6 KUNG FU PANDA

ILOILO

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 SEX AND THE CITY
5 GET SMART
6 KUNG FU PANDA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

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The action comedy "Get Smart" sends CONTROL agent Maxwell Smart (Steve Carell) on his most dangerous and important mission to thwart the latest plot for world domination by the evil crime syndicate known as KAOS.

It also happens to be his very first mission.

When the headquarters of secret U.S. spy agency CONTROL is attacked and the identities of its agents compromised, the Chief (Alan Arkin) has no choice but to promote his ever-eager analyst Maxwell Smart, who has always dreamt of working in the field alongside the star, relatively superstar Agent 23 (Dwayne Johnson). Known to personnel turned wife, the only other agent whose identity has not been compromised the feisty fan-lethal veteran Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway).

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SOON TO OPEN

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SOON TO OPEN

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Lettermen...

ORM bassist Zeldan (formerly Model) and Jeepi wind up their concert series at the Robinsons Malls. Tickets goes on June 22 (Robinsons Galleria) and June 29 (Robinsons Starmills Pampanga); Jeepi performs on June 21 (Robinsons Starmills Pampanga) and June 28 (Robinsons Metro East). Call 633-8688 loc. 750 and 752.

Tonight:
Jazz Cue, Abelo's Bar Fusco Atrium & Bakery, 27th Bldg.

Aug. 1
Slick Ambry, Annonce Collection

Aug. 5
Mitch Arce, Annonce Collection

Reality...

spectacle in himself, especially to spectators.

"Pageant Place"—January queens (the '50s), Miss Firsts (the '60s), Mr. Universe (the eighties in one apartment, co-residing their personal title forty from the spotlight and the pageant mess. Well, at least the viewers are often lovely...but, when the Queens behave awkwardly toward each other, the blame is decidedly off the mess.

On HGM Channel

Most months on the MCM Channel, which sat for their viewing room (all screenings at 9 p.m.): July 1, "The Willy Conspiracy"—Mallory Pollet and Michael Cohen deliver comedienne performances to this provocative thriller set in modern South Africa, where social tension is about to erupt into a full-fledged war.

July 8, "Abelo": Bandi's famous opera is brought to life by Penaco Lelliveli.

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GLORIETTA 4	1 MADE OF HONOR	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
	4 THE HAPPENING	5 KUNG FU PANDA	6 GET SMART	7 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
GREENBELT 1	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 GET SMART		
	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4 MADE OF HONOR	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK		
	3 MADE OF HONOR	4 KUNG FU PANDA	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GET SMART	2 MADE OF HONOR	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 KUNG FU PANDA		
	3 UNSUB	4 MADE OF HONOR	5 GET SMART	
TRINOMA	1 UNSUB	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4
	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	6 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	7 GET SMART	

At the Malls

glorietta	Everything but the stars of "MONSTER MOM" June 28, Activity Center
GREENBELT	SATURDAY JAZZ NIGHTS AT GREENBELT 3 June 28 & 21, 7:30pm-9:30pm
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Lifestyle Workshop with Bubbly: Art of Coffee June 28, 4PM, Cafe de las Palmas
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Shoes Sale June 13-22
MARKET! MARKET!	Pepe Goes To Market: Enjoy Entertainment on Birthday in Kind June 19-21, Activity Center
Christian Dior	Entertainment Galleria, Entertainment Event June 21, 2008
Ayala MUSEUM	Museum: Visions of Museum On Earth ongoing until 29 June For more information, please call 757-1117 or 21 World@ar.ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Kuwait & Hong Launch June 27, 7:30pm, Trinoma Activity Center Music: Lokal featuring Delara 6 @ 7:30/7 June 28, 4PM, Trinoma Activity Center

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INCREDIBLE HULK – G	SEX AND THE CITY – R13	GET SMART – PG13

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'Pisay' tops Golden Screen Awards

By Marinel R. Cruz

MANAGER HOLLY'S "PISAY," A MOVIE about eight Philippine Science High School students coming of age in the 1980s, won the highest number of honors in this year's Golden Screen Awards (GSA), the Entertainment Press Society or Enpress announced on Monday.

"Pisay" which debuted in the 2007 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, will receive eight trophies at the awarding ceremonies at Makati Cinemalaya, San Juan on June 24, 8 p.m.

The honorees were chosen by an eight-member jury led by Enpress president Ricky Calderon and other members of the movie press.

"Pisay" topped the Best Motion Picture (Drama) award. Both Marvelar Barbers, Nora Orgas and Sampaguita (Disney-Cinderella) and Best Supporting Actress (Drama, Musical or Comedy) for Eugene Domingo.

It also received honors for Best Original Song ("Ang Pasa-kong Mundo") written by Carlos Evangelista, Buddy Zabala and Ryann Hingpalabasan, Best Editing (Mikael Angelo Panerma and Rommel Sabbungan), Best Production Design (Martin Marabito, Hugo Regalado, Dante Garcia and Erell Balbuena) and Best Musical Score (Vincent de Jesus and Jules Talabusteros).

Other winners

Adler told Inquirer Entertainment by phone on Monday that he's very happy the film he directed and produced won in several categories.

Cherry Pie Picache was named Best Actress (Drama) for her role as a surrogate mother in Dante Mendoza's "Foster Child."

John Lloyd Cruz bagged the Best Actor (Drama) award for Cathy Garcia-Molina's "One More Chance," a love story about meeting on after a breakup.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, playing a screaming customer evident in Jose Javier Reyes' "Enteng Kabisote," won Best Actor in a comedy role. "Kimmy" was also chosen as Best Comedy film.

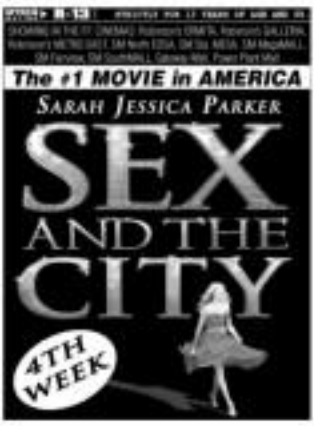
Ricky Davao was named Best Supporting Actor largely for his role as a man disturbed by his wife in the movie "Kubo."

Newcomers Rhian Ramos (Yupel Lee's "Dayo") and Joem Bascon (Adolf Alix Jr.'s "Banaue") won Breakthrough Performance awards by an Actress and Actor, respectively.

Other winners are Lorry Mirafe (Best Cinematography for "Making Akalat"), Elroy Aguila (Best Sound for "Kubo"), and August Rigues (Best Visual Effects for "Kubo").

Christopher de Leon will receive the Gawad Lino Brocka Lifetime Achievement Award. It was Brocka who launched De Leon's acting career in "Tinimbang Ka Subalit Kulang."

A posthumous award will be conferred to Rudy Fernandez, who succumbed to pneumopathy recent on June 7.

Rudy Mar Quirino and Aldin Lapuz will host the awards show.

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